

\$3.00

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER W

1 OR
01

617084384801 130499 7

CHYTHE AUTHORIZED FOR MAIL

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCER

VOL. 20 No. 926 - TUESDAY 13 APRIL 1999

• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST • PUBLICATIONS NO. M80720

WEEKLY

\$3.00

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS?



PLUS ...

**Sean Babic
previews
Marconi's
do-or-die
clash with
Adelaide City**

**The Four Diegos
with Ange
Postecoglou &
Alistair Edwards**

**The zany
Souris Bros Act
Nathan Day
& UK Premier**

SOCCKER WEEKLY

AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204.
Tel (02) 9562-0559 (Direct Line) Fax (02) 9550-9332
E-mail: Soccerweekly@hotmail.com

Published every Tuesday by FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204

DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel: (02) 9562-0500
 VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street, Collingwood. 3066. Tel: (03) 9486-9522 Fax: (03) 9486-9858
 QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006 Tel: (07) 3252-6011
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000 Tel: (08) 8218-9329
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth WA 6000. Tel: (08) 9328-4779

EDITOR: Aidan Ormond
LAYOUT CO-ORDINATOR: A.D. Akratos
LAYOUT/SETTING: Mary Quarty, Alamita Vea
SCANDESK: Alex Siafakas

COLOUR SCANS: Bill Hawthorne
FILM PLANNING: Nick Rekoumis, Nick Philips
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Shakranda
HAIRDRESSER: 'Hair to the throne' of Bexley

CORRESPONDENTS
 Dwight Tuffnell (Melbourne), Glenn Davis (Brisbane), Richard Kreider (Perth), Nick Gouth (Canberra), Margaret Bowden/Donald Campbell (Adelaide).

WRITERS: Roy Hay, John Vratic, Craig Wilson, Janene Mar, Daryl Katz, Soccer Spice, Bonnie Mersiades, Melissa Muscat, The Four Diegos, Lord Melbury, Art Vanderlay, Eva Loukas *Daniel Giorelando, (work exp.)

Recommended and maximum price: \$3.00
 * All material appearing in Australian and British Soccer Weekly is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher.

The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.
 ♦ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

THIS WEEK...

3	Australian News
4	Australian News
5	Australian features
6	Australian features
7	Australian features
8	Australian features
9	Australian features
10	Australian Soccer Woman
11	Ericsson Cup of Life Cover Page
12	Ericsson Cup of Life: Here we Go
13	Ericsson Cup of Life: Here we Go
14	Ericsson Cup of Life: Here we Go
15	National Youth League
16	SEAN BABIC
17	ALEX TOBIN
18	NSW Super League
19	Queensland
20	Victoria Premier League
21	Victoria
22	Global Game Cover Page
23	World Youth Championships
24	Italy
25	Europe
26	Europe
27	UK
28	UK
29	UK
30	UK
31	UK

IT'S TIME

By Aidan Ormond

Gough Whitlam's famous slogan about a long-standing government would seem apt for our current Young Socceroo coach, Les Scheinflug.

After a long and generally successful time, it would seem time to step aside. To paraphrase Gough: "Time for new ideas". Why?

First, Les has held the job for two decades. In the interests of a fair go, it should be given to someone else. It's been a run.

Second, there is no shortage of alternative candidates here in Australia. Postecoglou, Krnecic, Arnold, Farina, Sterrey and Ernie Merrick (from the VIS), could all do the job. Even David Mitchell, although he may be taking on a more senior role in the future national coaching set-up.

This of course would provide a natural line of candidates to be groomed for the Olyroos and senior Socceroo jobs in the future (note Scheinflug's name has never been mentioned for the top job, which in some



countries would seem strange).

Third, results. We did not qualify for the latest U/17 World Cup and our last three U/20 WYC appearances have seen us underachieve, particularly in Nigeria.

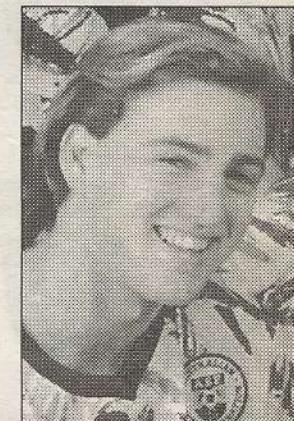
It's been a long and fairly successful era, thanks to Les' coaching and the many talented young Australians who have gone through the Young Socceroos' camps.

Les, you can go out with your reputation still intact if you do the right thing. In many other countries the sack would be the first order of business for the national association (Nigeria has already sacked its U/20 coach) given such results.

If you hang on you will sully your not unsubstantial standing at this level, just as Raul Blanco (the other member of the Young Socceroos' coaching staff) would do if the Olyroos (God help us) bombed out in the first round of Sydney 2000.

And even if we had won the 99 WYC he should have resigned. It doesn't matter which way one looks at it ... it's time.

PARTY AT SOUTH MELB!



They say life begins at 40 and South Melbourne wants to celebrate! The club has just turned 40 and will be celebrating this Sunday during their home game with Canberra Cosmos.

It will be a spectacular day, with a 'Legends' game featuring the stars of the 1984 and 1991 championship winning sides playing each other!

On top of that, and in keeping with the desire to involve everyone with the club's celebrations, there will be FREE entry for kids under 16, plus a FREE barbie and heaps of kids competitions and activities, clowns, jumping castles, face painters and other kids entertainment.

Even Bart Simpson will also be making an appearance, and to top things off, a big birthday cake for turning 40.

This sounds like a great day and a fantastic way to celebrate a club that has been playing in the NSL since its inception, has won three titles and has had numerous finals appearances.

Also did you know that in their first year of competition, 1960, South Melbourne Hellas won the Victorian 1st division north championship — dropping only one competition point in the process, scoring 79 goals and conceding only 11?

In the ensuing years they have had

play for them many of the greats of the game, including ex-Man Utd player Ernie Ackerley in the sixties and Greek star Ulysses Kokkinos in the seventies.

Socceroos Alan Davidson and Paul Wade were two of many stars that played for South Melbourne in the eighties. A full history of the club is available on their Net site.

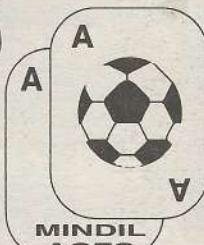
That's this Sunday at the Bob Jane Stadium, bring all your friends to witness a great game and a wonderful day.

Happy Birthday from Soccer Weekly.

PLAYERS RELOCATING TO DARWIN

Players Required for

Mindil Aces Soccer Club



Phone Enquiries to

Phil McWilliam
 (Director of Coaching)

Mobile: 0418 895 784
 Business: 08 8947 3666



President Mike Borzi
 Mobile: 0419 833 007 or
 0889 833 007

SPIRIT SHIRT WINNER

Ben Browning
 Bogangar NSW
RUNNERS-UP
 Fernando da Rocha
 Lake Heights NSW;
 Matt Haich
 Murrumba Downs, Qld

REMINDER

HAVE YOU TOLD CHANNEL 7 THAT YOU WANT BETTER SOCCER COVERAGE?

*E-mail by going to www.seven.com.au/sportsworld and clicking on E-mail for their automated feedback sheet
 *Fax 02 98777888
 *Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121
 Remember, Soccer won the Ch.7 poll for most popular football code.

SOUTH MELBOURNE v Canberra

Main Game

Kick-Off 6.00pm

Legends Game

Kick-Off 4.30pm

Sunday April 18

Bob Jane Stadium

It's our birthday and we want to celebrate it with you.

Australian News

DAY BRINGS LIFE TO PUMAS' CHALLENGE

SYDNEY UNITED

Day 2

SOUTH MELBOURNE

At Edensor Park, Sydney

1

0

By John Vrataric

Sydney United went a long way to winning the minor premiership with a dogged 1-0 win over leaders South Melbourne.

Although still behind Melbourne on goal difference United have two games to play whereas the champions have a bye amongst the last two weeks of the season.

A win and a draw against its last two opponents, Gippsland Falcons and Adelaide Sharks, will clinch the title for the season's Cinderella club.

In a lacklustre game played on a cool Sydney afternoon United scored an early goal and held out against a South Melbourne team unable to find the attacking fluency to penetrate a resolute United defence.

United coach David Mitchell again made the difficult choice of benching the super quick crowd pleaser Danny Townsend with the versatile Jacob Burns again partnering Nathan Day in attack.

South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou welcomed back Con Blatsis as one of the substitutes but otherwise was able to field a familiar looking line up.

The top of the table clash was expected to draw a large crowd for the financial stricken Sydney United club with Mitchell making a plea during the week for the club's supporters to support the club in its hour of need.

Although the crowd was vocal in its support the fact that only four thousand bothered to turn up was extremely disappointing for Mitchell and the club hierarchy and does not forebode well for the future of the club.

Those that did turn up barely had time to warm their seats before United opened the scoring. In the second minute a long ball from sweeper Richard Plesa found

David Barrett, playing his 300th game, hugging the right hand touchline.

Barrett cut infield and sent over a deep left foot cross toward the penalty spot where the only combatants were Nathan Day and Robert Liparoti. Michael Petkovic concluded that he could beat both to the ball but badly misjudged it and the ball looped over Liparoti onto the head of Day who easily guided it into an empty net.

Two minutes later the score was almost doubled. Another wide ball to Barrett resulted in a cross that was slightly behind Day who instinctively pushed the ball back where Steve Berry was running onto it with a clear shot on goal.

Berry attempted to hit the ball too hard and completely miss timed it and looked on as it skidded past Petkovic's right post. Melbourne had its first opportunity in the eighth minute when a neat move between Paul Trimboli and Steve Panopoulos released Michael Curcija wide on the left. Curcija switched the ball from his left foot to his right and delivered a pinpoint cross to Vaughan Coveny on the far post.

Coveny was unmarked but his control let him down, committing a handball as he attempted to chest it down. The match deteriorated from this point with the midfielders from both sides unable to gain control and the strikers lacking the quality service required to penetrate two formidable defences.

South Melbourne danger-man, Paul Trimboli, was having a very quiet game unable to escape the clutches of United's midfielders who took it in turn to close him down. Curcija was the focal point of South's attack and it was he who provided the crosses to re-ignite the game in the 31st and 34th minutes. On both occasions Coveny was unable to take advantage of them as his headers drifted wide.

United went into the break with a deserved one-goal lead.

The second half had its best moments in the latter part as South Melbourne strived for the equaliser.

United had its first opportunity in the 58th minute when a left wing cross from Michael Santalab was volleyed by Walter Ardone on the far post to an unmarked Nathan Day who headed it into the goal. The well worked goal was disallowed as Day was ruled off-side.

Curcija was in the action again in the 61st minute when his left wing cross allowed Coveny to outjump his marker and head towards goal but it drifted wide of the right post.

The introduction of Townsend in the 67th minute provided an impetus for United as his pace was a constant danger to the tiring South Melbourne defence.

The visiting team's search for the equaliser left it open at times and provided United with plenty of opportunities to counter-attack. They came close on a few occasions with a great run from Santalab being the closest. In the 78th minute Santalab picked up a loose ball down the left flank and took it inside where his attempted chip shot beat Petkovic but landed on top of the bar and bounced over.

A minute later Goran Lozanovski beat two defenders inside the United penalty box and crossed towards Coveny but the knee of Plesa got in the way and allowed United to clear the ball.

In the 88th minute young replacement Daniel Kukucka provided Townsend with a neat through ball that the latter could only toe poke into the arms of Petkovic.

United had the final opportunity of the game a minute into injury time when a rebound found Townsend free on the left. He took the ball all the way into the penalty box where his left foot drove a shot past Petkovic but also past his left post.

South Melbourne did not play up to its usual high standard and lacked penetration in the opponent's defensive area. Neither of the wing-backs, Lozanovski and Fausto DeAmicis, were able to overlap with consistency and their main playmaker, Trimboli, posed little danger.

Although replaced late in the game Curcija was the



MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,321

Referee: E. Lennie.

Sydney United: Gibson, Barrett, Santalab, Plesa, Kupresak, Vrkic, Bennett, Ardone (Kukucka 86), Berry, Burns, Day (Townsend 67).

South Melbourne: Petkovic, Lozanovski, DeAmicis, Iosifidis, Orlic, Liparoti (Blatsis 79), Panopoulos (Goutzioulis 74), Clarkson, Trimboli, Curcija (Anastasiadis 74), Coveny.

Yellows:

United: Burns 47
Melbourne: Goutzioulis 76

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Burns (Sydney United)
2: Kupresak (Sydney United)
1: Curcija (South Melbourne)

visitor's main avenue of attack. He was consistently making runs and provided a number of dangerous crosses, he was ably supported by Nick Orlic in defence.

"Once we went the goal down it made it very difficult for us to open them up. They had that goal cushion and they didn't really have to take risks whereas we did", said South coach Ange Postecoglou.

United's coach Mitchell was very pleased with the man of the match, Burns.

"Jacob Burns was superb up front, we put him all over the place. He's played left wing back, he's played midfield, he's played up front for us and everywhere I've put him he's given one hundred percent. I think he was sensational today", said Mitchell.

It was a memorable game for Nathan Day. Not only did he score, but his wife gave birth to a daughter on Saturday. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Day!

See our Nathan Day interview on the next page and for the rest of the Ericsson Cup of Life, it starts on page 11.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD v ADELAIDE CITY



SUNDAY APRIL 18

AT

MARCONI STADIUM
KICK-OFF 5 PM

Match Day Sponsors Brescia Furniture

ADELAIDE CITY



Brad Maloney



Sean Babic



Kim



Dominic Longo

MARCONI is Proudly Sponsored by BRESCIA FURNITURE

Australian News

EXILE EYEING A RETURN

By Aidan Ormond

Jurong United's Mirko Jurilj is one of a number of Australians in Singapore's Tiger Beer S-League (Tapai, Bozinovski, O'Donnell, plus coach Dave O'Connor).

As leagues go Juralj does not rate it as high as the Ericsson Cup, but he has no complaints. Life as a professional in a growing league is pretty sweet for the former Sydney United and Parramatta Eagles player (who last year played in the Malaysian league with Johor), up against the likes of Gombok United and Singapore Armed Forces.

"Despite the heat and humidity, generally the lifestyle is great here in Singapore. We train for a few hours a day, usually later at about 5pm, and the rest of the day is ours."

"And even though the Asian financial crisis has bitten quite deep, the pay is still good and one can live a comfortable lifestyle. I have been here since February so I can't complain."

"I was actually injured with a foot injury just before I arrived, and that was the time I was back in Australia training with Spirit and Sydney United.

Unfortunately I don't think my injury helped me I did not get picked up this time."

Yet Spirit impressed him with their set-up, which has fuelled his desire to come home.

"Spirit's training was intense and the club was well-organised compared to Sydney United, which obviously is lacking in the financial side of things."

So after having seen NSL and S-League, what are the differences?

"Australian players are stronger and have more of a physical presence, and the Australian league is generally stronger, but having said that, some of the players in Asia have great technique, so in that respect they are on the same level as in Australia."

What is the S-League all about?

"The stadiums are small, with 3-4,000 fans as capacity. This is the fourth season of the league, and seems every year it is getting stronger through the media and marketing strategies."

"There is obviously plenty of support, but of course it is a small island, so attendances do reflect that. There is a number of foreign players, such as Dejan Gluscevic, the Yugoslav, who was the top scorer in the Indonesian League and had played in the Greek Division One, and some Englishmen."

"As for life outside of soccer here I live in a nice condominium with all the facilities. Singapore nightlife is enjoyable with almost half a million foreign workers living here as well. It's good fun but it's definitely not Kings Cross!"

So how does the line "I am an Aussie soccer player" work?

(Laughs) "Well it doesn't work all the time but I guess soccer being such a global sport it's worth a try! Actually I have a girlfriend, she is Indonesian and is studying here."

So what are the plans?

"Short-term future is to fulfill my contract till July. If that is extended to October — which is when the season finishes here — then I would love to come back and really try to establish myself as an NSL player. I guess that is the one thing missing, not being an established name in my own country."

At 25, and with two man of the match awards in these last few weeks, Jurong United's Aussie may perhaps be another coming home bringing with him the experience of playing in one of Asia's newest leagues.

Have Your Say ...

I read your publication every week, and rate it as the best of its kind. I believe soccer is truly making inroads in the Australian public's perception, but I know we just have to keep chipping away.

I follow soccer and South Melbourne with religious zeal. I am devout enough to wear my South jersey whenever I go out on weekends, and promote discussions at work based on my team and sport. I think we have to make other Melbournites realise that soccer is the world's no.1 sport not by accident, but that in terms of skill level, marketability, sporting diplomacy, universality and excitement, soccer is supreme.

I feel offended by how subservient much of the media is to a "backwater" sport like aussie rules (I do not even feel it is deserving of capitals).

Outside Australia, who gives a toss about a weird game that fumbles on incessantly? And aussie rules appears to be utterly unmarketable overseas, if you consider how dismal the responses were to games scheduled in New Zealand (Rugby-dominated), South Africa (Soccer is the sport of the majority) and the worst possible place to try and sell it, the home of Soccer, England.

The fact that the AFL tried to sell a game meaningless to Poms at the time England played a Euro qualifier in London is absolutely laughable.

Best of luck, aussie rules, but you will be forever condemned to fight with rugby for the few remaining sporting scraps left available in an already sports saturated market — Australia. Global juggernaut Soccer, on the other hand, is proving to be a thorn in the eggball codes' sides.

Soccer is on the up in Australia, as the marketing, attendance and media trends show. I will do my best to see that the good word is spread about soccer.

I believe there are considerable inroads to be made — we can host the 2010 World Cup, further promote our NSL and compete more with Asia. The World Club Championship is another way to heighten the local profile of our top clubs.

The aussie rules fraternity has every right to be frightened, and if the recent Channel 7 web poll on preferred sport is any indication, soccer is actually more popular in Australia than aussie rules (although many of us knew this anyway). Soccer is also the no.1 youth sport in Australia, a fact that embarrasses supporters of aussie rules considerably.

There is massive support for soccer out there, particularly within the lucrative middle class market.

I have e-mailed various media outlets I don't think have given soccer a fair go, yet their inaction/non-compliance with easily and equitably achievable requests only seems to further highlight their recalcitrance and intransigence to change.

They will lose out eventually. When this happens, and it is beginning to happen, Aussie soccer supporters will laugh at them and say, "We told you so".

My next move is to lobby people with political clout. Soccer has been unfairly treated in this country, but I believe there are many avenues we can pursue if we want to turn this situation on its head.

Also, make your opinions count at the ballot box. If any polities fail to give soccer a fair go, you know the drill — give them the flick.

Best of all, try to bring the unacquainted along to a soccer match — chances are, they never knew how good the game was until they experienced it.

'Soccer Mad' Mark Fisher
The University of Melbourne

DARK DAYS OVER FOR NATHAN?

By Aidan Ormond

It's been a character building season for new Sydneysider Nathan Day. After a dream transfer from Adelaide Sharks to Sydney United, and a pre-season tour of Indonesia with the perennial top six Pumas, life for the 25 year old striker was looking up. He even found out he was to become a father!

Things however rapidly went downhill shortly after.

He was injured three weeks before the season started, effectively putting him out for six months, United's finances went into a very public freefall (they were placed in the hands of an administrator, although the club is now out of that situation) and Day's replacements, Young Socceroos Sterjovski and Griffiths, not only filled in, but became regular goalscorers and darlings of the fans.

He must have thought the Gods were not on his side for this particular part of his career.

Fortunately, seven months later, this story is looking much happier, one could say night has turned

Nathan Day FACTFILE

Age: 25

Nickname: Velcro (in Adelaide only!)

Interests: Seeing friends, spending time with my wife, playing Sony Playstation

Music Fav: Dance Hip Hop

Previous Clubs: Adelaide City, West Adelaide, plus the SA Premier League

Born: Elizabeth, Adelaide.

Future: To play overseas at some stage.

Wish for his new baby: "To play a sport like Golf or Tennis (you can actually make money!)."

into day?

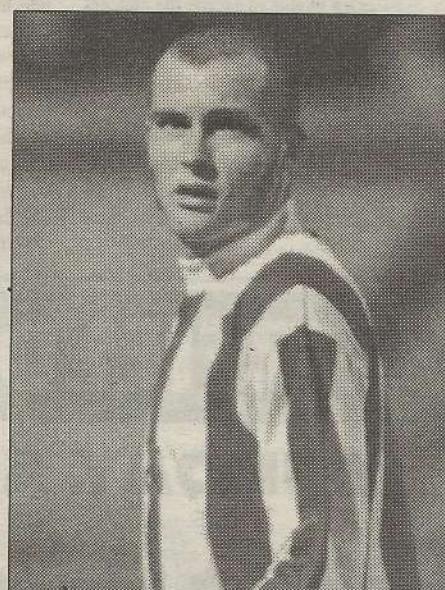
"It definitely was character building," he says of the season thus far. "In professional sport you have to be ready for the ups-and-downs. After having a plaster on for that long even just walking makes you happy. Even though I have yet to play a full ninety minutes (before last weekend's South game) I am just happy to be out there."

"I did not think that I would be injured, I came in good spirits, trained well in pre-season, I guess I just expected to be doing what I am doing now, just a little earlier," he observes.

And after playing for Sharks and Pumas, Day cites consistency as the main difference between the two clubs.

"At the Sharks we would sometimes play brilliantly, then we wouldn't, but the thing with Sydney United is that we have been consistent week-in-week-out. Why this is so is a good question, I guess it's about players with big hearts. Everyone can have a bad game, but the players have to put in 120%, which happens here at United."

"Yes at the end of the day money is important," he reflects, "but there are other



Nathan Day ... "you have to remain positive."

things, such as getting the benefits out of playing in a top side. It's a bonus to be playing for a quality side."

But times must have tough during the injury and the financial crisis?

"Well yes, but you really have to remain positive. My wife is a pretty strong person, I rely on soccer as my full-time income, fortunately though she has a job. Sydney is a very big place and it takes time to get used to, especially living in Edensor Park which is so far from the city, but in general I am happy and looking forward to playing in the finals. Jump my backfence and you're in Edensor Park stadium, which is pretty good!"

By the time you read this there could be an addition to the family at the Day household — Mrs Day being just about ready to bring life into the world.

So, as the Pumas and Nathan Day may say, "Life just keeps getting better!"

*Sydney United plays in Gippsland this weekend.

Padstow Hornets

Soccer Club

Under 12/1 Players

WANTED

2 vacancies with last years Bankstown District Under

11/1 Premiers

Phone Enquiries:

Gary Lloyd ... 9773 0746

Lou Allison ... 9772 3513

Training:

Tuesday & Thursday

5.15pm to 7.00pm

Stuart Street, Reserve
Padstow



GLORY SET TO PARTY!

Perth Glory will now play their finals game (s) at the WACA. General Manager Roger Lefort announced that Glory would play any home finals under lights at the ground after reaching agreement with the Western Australian Cricket Association.

"They could not have been more helpful," said Lefort. "They are very flexible as to dates and we can play under lights."

"The WACA has also agreed to let us bring seating close to the pitch so we can recreate the unique soccer atmosphere that Glory has become famous for."

"There will be a standing area for Hill patrons," added Lefort.

"We are delighted with the arrangement and depending upon our final results of the season we may face a May 8 final with a 7.30pm kick-off."

"I am confident that soccer fans will be pleasantly surprised by the atmosphere we can offer at the WACA — it has taken plenty of hard work for Glory to get to this stage and we plan to make a real party of it."

This shapes up as another great day in West Australian (and Australian) soccer, with 35,000 plus expected. Book your tickets now!!

Australian News

MEXICANS WAVE BYE TO AUSTRALIANS

By Eva Loukas

The Young Socceroos faced Mexico in their second match of the World Youth Championships in Nigeria and found them to be a much tougher opponent than the Saudis were in game one, going down by 3 goals to 1.

It was a game in which Australia never really found its rhythm, giving away possession and failing to close down their speedy opponents from Central America.

An early goal to the Mexicans had the Aussies on the backfoot from the onset. A foul by midfielder Vince Grella on Rodriguez led to a superbly executed free kick from Mexico's Captain, Rafael Marquez.

Marquez sent his brilliant right foot shot over Australia's wall and into the back of the net, giving the Mexicans an early lead.

From then, the Young Socceroos faced an uphill battle. Just three minutes later, Australia's defence was called into action again. A surging run by Mexico's Osorno down the right flank led to some sharp, one touch football by the Mexicans in Australia's third.

A clever ball through Australia's defence found Osorno who fired in a low drive at goal which was sharply saved by Anthony Breaden.

The Young Socceroos were probably their own worst enemy in this match, giving away possession to the Mexicans too easily.

Australia had to wait until the 22nd minute of the game for their first corner.

It came after Lindsay Wilson took on his opponent down the left flank. The corner was met by Eddy Bosnar whose shot had the 'keeper beaten only to be cleared off the line by a Mexican defender.

In the 40th minute, Bosnar was again in the thick of things, this time at the other end of the park when a ball from Mexico's midfield found Nava who exploited the loose marking of Australia's defence.



Nigeria '99

10th FIFA World Youth Championship

scoreline at the interval.

With the teams locked at 1-1 going into the second half, Scheinflug introduced the lightning quick Joel Griffiths to liven up Australia's attack.

Griffiths' goal scoring opportunities were few and far between though, with the service to him and Sterjovski not really effective in creating many good goal scoring chances for the dynamic duo.

Australia and Mexico have already met each other in the opening match. On 2 June 1983 in Mexico City, in a 1-1 draw, Marcelino Bernal (MEX) opened the score in 16th minute, Frank Farina evened the score in 73rd minute.

With 6 points in 2 matches, Mexico have already qualified for the round of 16. This is the 5th time that Mexico reach the next round in 11 participations to the WYC final phase. Their best result dates back to the 1st edition of the Tournament, at Tunisia 1977, when they played the final game losing to USSR only after penalty shoot-outs.

The Mexicans continued to pressure the Young Socceroos' defence in the second half. In the 52nd minute, a quickly taken free kick led to a long range

effort by Mexico that was not far from Breaden's right hand post.

Missing in Australia's game were the raids by Emerton down the right flank which were so effective against the Saudis, while in the midfield, Vince Grella never exerted the same authority he had stamped on game one. Instead, it was Mexico's Torrado and Victorino who ran the show from the middle of the park.

In the 50th minute, some nice play by Mexico down the left of the park ended with a precision turn by Victorino inside the box, followed by a shot from Rodriguez, that was cleared off the line by captain Simon Colosimo.

Seconds later, Australia's defence rallied yet again, this time Anthony Breaden producing a good reflex save to deny Rodriguez a second goal for Mexico.

Torrado and Victorino were brilliant for Mexico in the centre of the park, dribbling the ball out of midfield. The Mexicans finishing however, let them down on a number of occasions.

In the 57th minute, Mexico regained the early lead they had taken in the game. 'Keeper Anthony Breaden was judged to have clipped the legs of Mexico's Osorno inside the box and the resulting spot kick was converted by Rodriguez, putting Mexico ahead 2-1.

Scheinflug brought on David Terminello and Danny Invincibile in the 61st minute and gave Jason Culina a more attacking role on the left side of midfield.

From then, Australia began pushing more men forward while Mexico were content to sit back and try to catch the Aussies on the counter-attack.

In the 70th minute, a free kick taken by Culina was

cut out by the Mexicans who hastily turned defence into attack and it was the outstanding defensive work of Lindsay Wilson that saved Australia on that occasion.

The turning point in the match came in the 77th minute after Jason Culina missed a penalty for Australia.

A handball by a Mexican defender inside the area gave the Aussies a chance to make it 2-2 but Culina's low shot was easily stopped by Martinez.

Two minutes earlier, the Aussies were again ruining their bad luck after a free kick on the edge of the penalty area, taken by Culina, was firstly saved by the Mexican 'keeper and then rebounded off the bar and cleared away.

Mexico were hungry for that third goal to kill off the game and it came seven minutes from time. A cross from the left courtesy of Daniel Moralez found Osorno, one of three Mexicans lining up in the area, who made it 3-1.

In the 87th minute, Wilson showed that he can attack as well, running at the Mexican defence only to see his cross hit the side netting.

One positive sign for Australia from this match was the involvement of Lindsay Wilson in attack down the left of the field. He was also good in defence and one of Australia's better performers on the day.

Captain Simon Colosimo also made some important contributions in defence.

The Young Socceroos must now regroup and lift enormously ahead of their next match. Coach Les Schienflug will have to reshuffle Australia's defence after Michael Cunico received his second yellow card of the tournament and will miss Australia's last group game against Ireland (see below).

Best Aussies: 3: Wilson, 2: Colosimo, 1: Bosnar



Mile Sterjovski ... superb finish by the Puma.

IRISH OUTCLASS YOUNG SOCCEROOS

By Ben Cubby

Australia's Young Socceroos were humiliated 4-0 by the powerful Irish Under-20 team in their final group game of the World Youth Cup.

Despite being 1-0 down after 2-0 minutes, the Aussies looked good enough to get something out of the match, before conceding three goals late in the second half.

The Irish started brightly, with Blackburn winger Damian Duff probing down the left flank and combining well with full Eire international Robbie Keane. Eighteen year old Aussie 'keeper Michael Turnbull, a surprise choice ahead of Anthony Breaden, pulled off two impressive saves early on to deny Keane and Richard Sadler.

After looking nervous in the opening minutes, the

Young Socceroos began to stroke the ball around well in midfield and create some chances of their own. Simon Colosimo saw his header fly just wide in the 11th minute. Emerton had forced a corner, and Eddy Bosnar

time break, both of them forcing saves from Irish 'keeper Delaney.

The switch allowed Brett Emerton to play a more attacking role, and Eire responded with some rugged defence to deny the Aussies an equaliser.

Marco Bresciano sent a free-kick sailing over the bar in the 61st minute, after Irish captain Barry Quinn had hacked down Sterjovski on

the edge of the box. Invincibile lined up a shot moments later, but a desperate tackle from defender Peter Gavin preserved Ireland's slim advantage.

With so many players pushing forward in search of a goal, the Young Socceroos were inevitably undermanned at the back. In the 73rd minute, they were punished when Eire broke quickly from defence.

A long pass from Leeds Utd midfielder Steve McPhail found Damian Duff. His weaving run cut the Aussie backline to ribbons, and he smashed the ball past Turnbull at the near post.

A minute later, the Irish pushed forward with renewed confidence and put game beyond Australia's reach with another goal. Keane was the provider this time, turning inside stopper Lyndsay Wilson and cutting the ball back to Colin Healy, who slotted calmly home.

Australia fought to the finish, with Emerton, Bresciano and Vince Grella contesting every ball in the middle of the park. Sterjovski almost snatched a consolation goal in the 77th minute, but his angled volley was palmed away by Delaney. Substitute Joel Griffiths also came close, but the luck was with the Irish on the day.

Ireland rubbed salt into Australian wounds with

Nigeria '99

10th FIFA World Youth Championship

narrowly failed to connect with a Marco Bresciano free-kick five minutes later.

Richard Sadler gave Ireland the lead in the 20th minute. Duff's curling cross from the left found Sadler unmarked inside the six yard box and the big midfielder nodded a simple header past Turnbull.

The Young Socceroos lifted after the goal, dominating possession, but too often their slick build-ups were spoiled by a wayward final pass. The Irish kept nine players behind the ball, absorbing pressure, and waiting for opportunities to counter-attack.

Some skilful play by Mile Sterjovski carved out a chance for Jason Culina on the half hour mark, but the Sydney Olympic youngster scuffed his shot wide of the post. Bresciano may have been fouled as he burst through the Eire defence shortly afterwards, only for the referee to dismiss the penalty claim.

The pace of Duff and Colin Healy kept Aussie full-backs Emerton and Terminello on their toes, as the Irish won a series of corners late in the half. Young Socceroo striker John Maisano had a goal disallowed for offside, while, at the other end of the ground, Robbie Keane's low shot was superbly blocked by Turnbull.

Substitutes Danny Invincibile and Chris Care brought a sense of urgency to the Australian side after the half-

time break, both of them forcing saves from Irish 'keeper Delaney.

The switch allowed Brett Emerton to play a more attacking role, and Eire responded with some rugged defence to deny the Aussies an equaliser.

Marco Bresciano sent a free-kick sailing over the bar in the 61st minute, after Irish captain Barry Quinn had hacked down Sterjovski on

the edge of the box. Invincibile lined up a shot moments later, but a desperate tackle from defender Peter Gavin preserved Ireland's slim advantage.

With so many players pushing forward in search of a goal, the Young Socceroos were inevitably undermanned at the back. In the 73rd minute, they were punished when Eire broke quickly from defence.

A long pass from Leeds Utd midfielder Steve McPhail found Damian Duff. His weaving run cut the Aussie backline to ribbons, and he smashed the ball past Turnbull at the near post.

A minute later, the Irish pushed forward with renewed confidence and put game beyond Australia's reach with another goal. Keane was the provider this time, turning inside stopper Lyndsay Wilson and cutting the ball back to Colin Healy, who slotted calmly home.

Australia fought to the finish, with Emerton, Bresciano and Vince Grella contesting every ball in the middle of the park. Sterjovski almost snatched a consolation goal in the 77th minute, but his angled volley was palmed away by Delaney. Substitute Joel Griffiths also came close, but the luck was with the Irish on the day.

Ireland rubbed salt into Australian wounds with

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE STRATHFIELD

Goalkeeping Coach WANTED



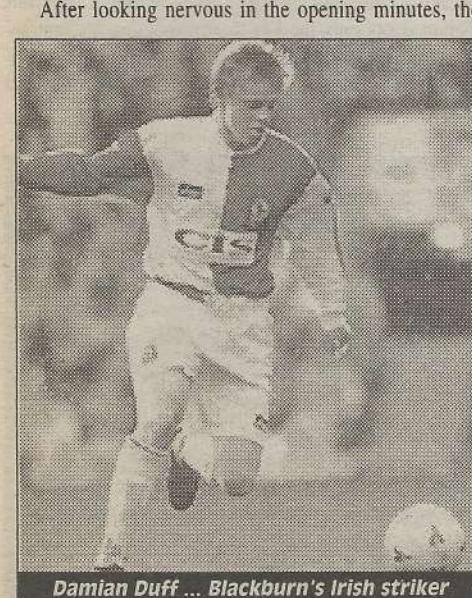
St Patrick's College Strathfield has a growing and competitive tradition. Competing in the Independent Schools Association, St Patrick's fields teams from the 13 years to open age groups.

The College is seeking to employ a Goalkeeping coach for the 1999 season. The position would entail three afternoons training per week for one and half hours per day.

The successful applicant will be well-versed in the development of Goalkeeping skills and have appropriate qualifications and experience. Attending Saturday competition matches may be an advantage.

Applicants to contact Jason Marks, on 9763 1000.

Between 19 and 23 April, 1999.



Damian Duff ... Blackburn's Irish striker showed why he is a Premier League player.

Australian Features

SALVATION FOR A YOUNG DISCIPLE

By Aidan Ormond

Ivo de Jesus. Great name, great player who has been part of the resurrection (sorry!) at Canberra under Tom Sermanni in 1999.

Similar in style to Breakers' John Buonavoglia (they played together in the Apia youth team) he is one of those players who should have been a big star by now, but a nomadic stop-start career has hampered the progress of this genuinely exciting midfielder.

Many would de Jesus as the long-haired fringe player during the halcyon days of 95/96, when Sydney Olympic were breaking all attendance records with their winning team.

The belief in himself manifested a heartfelt desire to be a part of this great team. It wasn't to be for the then 19 year old.

"I was quite disappointed that I was not given more of a go. I wanted regular and senior football," explains de Jesus. "So I told coach Dave Ratcliffe. I was not happy. I think if you are good enough you are old enough, so you should be given a chance."

"I went to State League because I was not happy playing with youngsters in the NYL. I went out on loan to Rockdale with Raleasic



Factfile ... Ivo de Jesus
Fav TV show: Married with Children
Music: Dance
Ideal Woman: My girlfriend, Julianne
Person most like to meet: Diego Maradona (I've already met Eusebio!)
Philosophy: Live your dreams.

and had a pretty good season in 1996. I have a lot of respect for ex-Cosmos coach Raleasic, who was a big fan of mine. Then I went to Blacktown in Super League the following year.

"I actually had a trial at Adelaide City for the 1997 season but was thrown in at the deep end, it's always difficult when you are the new boy."

"Anyway, I also had a trial two seasons back with Branko Culina in Canberra. He said he wanted to sign me. We had a discussion over contract details, he said he wanted to sign me, he indicated he would give me a call, to this day he has not. That was quite disappointing. People talk about professionalism but his behaviour was not very professional. He did not have the decency to call and discuss things, we could have worked things out ... so I went overseas to Benfica," recalls de Jesus.

"I went to my old coach and told him I was

back, so I went for the final months of the 97 season at one of the satellite clubs.

"Unfortunately Benfica was strapped for cash, like so many other clubs these days in Portugal. I really felt life was at a crossroad, I was sick of calling clubs, so I got in contact with Brian Turner, now my current agent. This was just before Christmas last year."

At 22 he has found himself in the nation's capital at Cosmos.

"So Brian suggested that Canberra may be good. I was not real fit but I figured playing regular football would be good for me, besides my family is here and I wanted to see them."

"So I have been in Canberra about 11 weeks. When I arrived with two other players, Gabriel Gonzalez and Nick Purdie, there was no coach and Tommy was just starting.

"We train on a daily basis, Tommy's training reminds me of Euro training and he knows what he is talking about. He worked out quickly that I was not an out-and-out striker."

"Now that my fitness is up he has slotted me behind the front two. And when you play against sides like Glory and Spirit it really motivates you to play here in the NSL, I love the big crowds."

"My plans centre around playing in the NSL another year, and another in the state league in the off-season to keep fit for it."

And outside of the game?

"Well I love all sports, a bit of clubbing. I studied accounting at TAFE and it's something to fall back on. My dad was a professional player in Portugal but got a bad knee injury early. So he has encouraged me to plan for myself."

And life in Canberra?

"It's a really nice town, the fans have been so supportive. You would have thought that given all the losses they would have turned their backs on the Cosmos, but no, they have been great, and now that we are putting more competitive displays out on the park, it's even better."

"Bruce stadium would have to be one of the best places to play in the country, and the surface is great too, even opposition players and coaches say that."

"And the fans, well, they may be small in number, but they do make a lot of noise."

For the first time de Jesus is playing regularly in a first team, and that's all he wants.

His career may have finally gained some momentum, and his resurrection as a player (and scorer) has mirrored that of the 1999 Cosmos team.

As he says, "I love the game and could not think of life without it."

Sean Babic on ...

Marconi v Ad City

Soccer Weekly tracked Sean Babic down to the Royal Easter Show last Friday, and while Sean rode the rides and scoffed Fairy Floss with Mrs B, he gave us his thoughts on what is a crucial game: Marconi v Adelaide City at the Marconi stadium.

"It's always a big game with their national team defenders playing against you."

"Plus, being coached by Zoran Matic adds spice to this encounter. It really is a psychological game, trying to get the better of your opponent, particularly with



these guys, with whom you probably have to use an extra bit of thinking to get past them."

"With Tobin and Ivanovic they tend to read the game well. You want to be facing them if you have an advantage in the pace area, rather than having your back to them. I'll be trying to get off them, getting to the ball before they do so I can be facing them. Yes early service is important."

"There are four Sydney sides in the hunt for places in the six. These games are like Grand Finals for us. The players have realised that this is it, or it's the end

of the season. So the players are up for it."

"Players like Maloney will be vital in the midfield. The game will be won in the midfield. We will have to stop the service to their strikers, where our defenders Mark (Babic) and Dominic (Longo) will need to be very tight on Mori. They will need to cut off the service at the same time we need good service upfront."

"Training is really pumped up, as is the side. We are ready for them."

"And after their barnstorming display against Wolves last weekend this has the portents of a super encounter. After all, a finals spot is at stake."

DINOSAURS AND THE BIG BANG

By Ralph Barba

As an analogy for the plight of the traditional Australian soccer club, this statement could be labelled as over-dramatic and some would say, inaccurate.

There is little doubt though, that the inability of a number of long serving NSL clubs to adapt to a changing market environment, whilst not immediately leading to a 'Big Bang' type extinction, will over time, threaten their long-term position in the league.

One such club under the spotlight is the Melbourne Knights.

In pre-historic jargon, the Knights throughout the early 90s held the mantle of the T-Rex of the Ericsson Cup. They took all before them, winning minor premierships in 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1995, also winning back-to-back Grand finals in the latter two seasons.

"It's difficult to say what affect the image of the game has on those issues. On face value you could suggest that it could be the case. But with regards to the Melbourne Knights, we believe other factors such as, where we play and when we play, are important issues to look at when you're trying to find reasons."

"All clubs with the exception of only a few, are experiencing a drop in crowds. We all recognise that we have to broaden our appeal but in doing that at the Knights, we will never forget where this club has come from. We will always respect its roots."

Community perception has been that the million-dollar slice of the Mark Viduka transfer to Celtic, in effect, has saved the club and given it valuable breathing space to plot a new strategy for the future.

Although admitting that the money was welcomed, Phillips stresses that it would be a mistake to believe that it guarantees the club's long-term future.

"It certainly has been a massive help. Things were tight



Are the dark days over for the Knights?

Their pedigree on the park was assured with the continuous assembly line of magnificent young Aussie talent serving the club well, and then moving on to greater spoils abroad. The formula, it seemed, was in place, and the future of the club was guaranteed. Or was it?

Battles with the David Hill led Soccer Australia administration and a downturn in results on the park brought about by the exodus of quality players, have since left the club vulnerable.

This season in particular, circumstances have conspired to condemn the club potentially, to being a legitimate victim of the 'Big Bang' theory.

"The club has struggled on the field for a variety of reasons. This has been correlated to problems off it. The instability in administrative staff has also been reflected in the downturn in corporate sponsorship" explained Knights General Manager, Damien Phillips. "Our diminishing crowd sizes can not only be put down to on field performances though. Spectators have other options on a warm, barmy Sunday night."

"At the end of the day, we as a club have to assess exactly what we need to do to attract the fans. It's no longer a matter of just putting the event on and people turning up. We have to take the game to the people."

On the issue of whether the image of the game in Australia and in particular, that of ethnically aligned traditional clubs and its effect on the numbers attending games and the attraction of corporate sponsorship, Phillips could only speculate.

and tough. At present we are looking at our options at what to do with the bulk of that money. We've got to look at the long-term picture. One thing is clear, we know that the money on its own will not be our ultimate saviour."

On the club's understanding of the enormous challenge that lay ahead, Phillips was frank.

"The money offered us relief in the day to day pressure of running the club. There has been a strong belief in the club, even prior to the receipt of the Viduka money, that things need to change. We recognise even with this injection of cash that the club will struggle to survive if it doesn't make the necessary changes."

"We are not only battling amongst ourselves as clubs to find extra funding, supporters and sponsorship dollars but we also fighting, particularly here in Melbourne, the AFL, Cricket, Basketball, Melbourne Storm and we are fighting the Sydney Olympics, which is taking up a lot of the available dollars to sporting clubs."

"In a town like this, we've got a lot of competition to deal with and if we don't make the changes to be competitive and attractive, this club will battle to survive in the long-term."

The challenge for the Melbourne Knights, one of the most decorated and successful soccer clubs in Australia, is undeniable.

Adapting to changing market forces in the Australian sports market is not only the key to ensuring that the famous red, white and blue continues to be worn indefinitely, but as we approach the millennium, its critical for this dynamic dinosaur to avoid the 'Big Bang'.

Australian Features

BROTHER ACT

SOCER'S SIZZLING SIBLINGS

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a brother playing in the Ericsson Cup?

How honoured and proud you would feel, knowing that a member of your family was representing their state competing nationwide.

Well imagine there were two! Not one, but two of your brothers playing the game which is watched, loved and worshipped worldwide.

We decided to speak with a few of the famous brothers in the league, asking them what it was like to compete against each other and what feelings these siblings experienced just before a game.

The Cranney, Anastasiadis and Souris brothers have all played in the national league against each other this season.

Troy Cranney who plays for Northern Spirit, but is currently injured, speaks of what it is like to play against his brother Sean Cranney who plays for Brisbane.

"We haven't played against each other this year due to my injury but we have played against each other in the past. Before I played for Brisbane, I played with Heidelberg in Melbourne."



Sean Cranney ... brother of Spirit's Troy, who misses him.

When asked if there was any tension, Troy is coy, "In weeks leading up to the game there was a bit of friendly tension but nothing serious. Brisbane ended up winning and I copped a bit of stick but I gave it back when we beat them next time 'round'."

"Before this season, Sean and I played together for six years and we won the championship together in 1997 with Brisbane. The crowd of 40,000 was unexpected but it was unbelievable."

"I miss Sean a little bit. Especially because we used to train together, do gym work together and we had the same friends.

But it's not too bad because I've always travelled with soccer so I'm used to it."

Sean comments on what it will be like playing against his brother in the near future.

"Unfortunately, Troy was injured when we played against Northern Spirit. We've always got along well though, we won a grand final together in '97."

"I'm looking forward to playing against him (Troy). It's strange because we're direct opponents with the positions we play. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses."

"We're always competitive against each other. Naturally we argue about things, like what we did wrong in the game. Troy's not afraid to tell me."

Sean and Troy's mum and sister Karen watch all the games. Their mum in Brisbane and their sister lives in Sydney. Sean explains, "Mum watches all my games and watches every Northern Spirit game on Optus. She's a keen supporter."

When asked who the favourite was, Mum says: "There are no favourites."

John and Dean Anastasiadis work together in Melbourne.

The Ericsson Cup has its fair share of brothers, and this can lead to a fair bit of sibling rivalry. Three sets of Aussie Soccer brothers spill the beans to Melissa Muscat on what it's like when there is a familiar face lined up against you

These two brothers possibly hold the most tension giving positions. John is a striker for South Melbourne and Dean is the goalkeeper for Carlton. Last season both these teams met in the grand final and John had the pleasure of scoring against his brother.

"I wasn't really that nervous in the grand final."

So when asked if he felt bad about scoring against his brother he said, "You don't really feel bad when you're playing but when you think about it later I suppose you feel a little bad."

"Dean's there to do a job, he stops the goals. I just usually keep clear of him for a week or so."

"Obviously it would be great to play together in the same team but it's a big bonus playing in the same state. We always worry about injuries to one another. Our first priority is coming out unscathed and

second is to be successful."

The two most comical brothers of the league, George and Paul Souris filled me in on a competition they have going.

George, a defender for the Wollongong

playing against each other and he was running down the line with the ball. I shoulder charged him and the fence was really close to the sideline so he went straight into. The ref was running over to book me but Paul

"Did George tell you that we (Adelaide Sharks) beat them (Wollongong) 5-1 last season? That was the ultimate revenge. George got sent off so that was my winning bonus. I tried not to laugh but I couldn't help it. Even with all the grand finals I've played in this was my career highlight."

There's a pause.

"I'm trying hard to think of what to say to rub salt in the wounds. I really want to say this though, I'm proud of George for making it. He believed in himself and never gave up. Possibly my proudest moment was playing our first national league game against each other."

At this point in the conversation Paul gets very deep and meaningful.

"Finally, George, this poem was written especially for you from your loving brother Paul."

I'd certainly hate to be in the same room

OH BROTHER

George, as boys, soccer was the game,
George always lost, that made him insane.
From the backyard to the street,
Paul always had him beat.
Paul always gave George advice:
Don't play, or you'll pay the price.
Paul had skill, he had class,
he always kicked George's ____!
Brotherly love will always be there,
but always remember George, BEWARE!

Paul Souris

Adelaide Sharks (unpublished)

as these guys on their next encounter!

Other Ericsson Cup brother acts include: John and Chad Gibson, Adrian and David Cervinski, Michael and Jason Petkovic, Gaven and Gareth Niven, Leo and Nick Carle, Joel and Adam Griffiths.

Have we missed any?



MEDIA PRESS PTY LTD

5-13 GARNERS AVENUE, NSW 2204 (02) 9562 0500 - Fax (02) 9550 9332



- * NEWSPAPER — MAGAZINES BOOKLETS — INSERTS — TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
- * WEB OFFSET PRINTERS
- * GENERAL COMMERCIAL and COLOUR PRINTERS
- * TYPESETTING — TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE
- * SADDLE STITCHING
- * PERFECT BINDING
- * DISTRIBUTION — CIRCULATION AVAILABLE

(02) 9562 0500

Australian Features



Welcome Amigos, we are the Four Diegos, so why don't you join us. Let's Samba, let's Rumba, let's La Bamba, let's Salza down the Copacabana with sombreros on our feet. Let's welcome Glory's buffeting, hard man striker and thorn in the side of Ericsson Cup defenders, Alistair Edwards.



LAST STOP IN A GLORIOUS CAREER?

Diegos: "The Diegos describe you as the 'Journeymen' of Aussie soccer. It seems that in the past, wherever you laid down your jockstrap, you called home. Have you decided that Perth Glory is the place you want to be in the long term?"

Edwards: "I'm actually originally from Perth. I grew up and went to school here. Coming back to play for the Glory is like coming home for me. Hopefully it's my last stop. I always planned to come back to Perth at some stage during my career."

"When the club first entered the national league it wasn't the right time for me to return because I was

midway through a deal in Malaysia. Recently though the Asian financial crisis forced all foreigners out of Malaysia so it was a great time to take the opportunity to come home and play. It's been a perfect move. I'm really enjoying it."

Diegos: "Your extensive soccer travels make you ideally placed to compile a book such as 'Alistair Edwards — Travelling Sandgropers: Lonely Planet Guide'. You've experienced the culture and football in Malaysia,

Singapore, Scotland and England. In which country did you enjoy your football most and have you succeeded in finding a restaurant in Perth that has fish head curry, Singapore noodles, haggis and warm beer on its menu?"

Edwards: "Out of all the places, I think the best for me was Malaysia and Singapore. We have found a restaurant in Fremantle that has authentic Chinese/Malay food but unfortunately they don't serve haggis and beer. We have found a dish that my wife and I used to have for breakfast in Malaysia called curry laksa but it's not the same so we are still searching."

Diegos: "Your signing for Glory coincided with some improved form by the team after enduring a mid-season slump. Just as the Fremantle Doctor arrives to offer relief from a scorching Perth day, do you think your arrival has stabilised a potentially worrying time for the club, Doctor Edwards?"

Edwards: "I think the timing of team's improved form with my arrival is probably coincidental. The team was going through a bad slump but a lot of teams experience that during the season so that's not abnormal. It just so happens that I was around at the right time I suppose."

Diegos: "You've had more coaches than the Diegos have had gut-rotting shots of home made tequila. What are your impressions of Glory coach, Bernd Stange and what does he bring to Aussie soccer that has been lacking in the past?"

Edwards: "I think he is very good. He

obviously has the credentials. Throughout his career he has coached a lot of very good players in addition to the East German national team. He is such a likeable kind of guy. He has some very good ideas about the game and makes training very interesting. He treats all the players with the utmost respect and receives that in return."

"I think that he has been a breath of fresh air for the game here, even though I believe there are some very good coaches in Australia."

Diegos: "In your opinion, has Glory got the 'Go Glorious Goods' to go all the way and bring home the Ericsson Cup this season?"

Edwards: "It's really hard to say. We are able to play well for 60 minutes throughout a game but then



Edwards during his stint with UTS Sydney Olympic

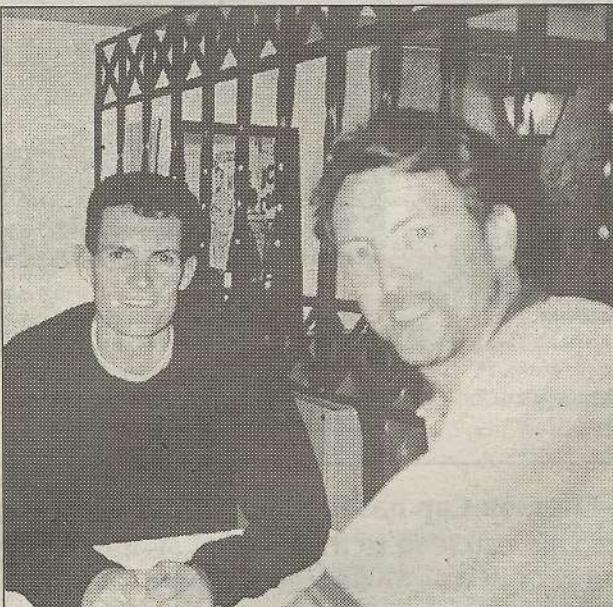
are prone to lapses in concentration. We've definitely got the talent so if we can sort that problem out, I think we are a big chance."

Diegos: "Have you got a message for the magnificent Glory fans out there in the stands?"

Edwards: "When I played at Millwall our crowd figures were half the size of Glory's. So we definitely have something special going here. The boys really appreciate your support. Keep it going and I hope we will be able to achieve something special this season."

Diegos: "Thanks Alistair. We hope that you find a good feed of fish head curry and a pint warm beer soon. Adios amigo!"

Edwards: "Thanks Diegos. I hope so too. An extra yard of pace would do wonders and that fish head chilli is guaranteed to provide it. Adios amigos!"



Alistair Edwards with Sydney United's coach David Mitchell

Quotes from the Four Diegos Files

Perth Glory, Politics and the Diegos.

"Let the candidates line up and try to save a Con Boutsianis free kick from 30 yards. Anyone who does has got my vote."

- An Ericsson Cup coach, on how Australians should choose the President of the Republic.

Perth Glory, Computer Bugs and the Diegos.

"Perth coach, Bernd Stange corrupted my game plan more times than the Melissa virus."

- An exasperated Ericsson Cup coach after his team was recently shellacked by a rampant Glory.

Perth Glory, Opposition Goalkeepers and the Diegos.

"After the traumatic experience against Perth Glory, I'm not going to let him to pick up our baby until it's at least five years old."

- Wife of a shattered opposition Ericsson Cup goalkeeper who contracted a dose of the shingles, after trying to combat the ruthless and relentless Glory strikers.

SMYRNIS & CO

Solicitors and Public Notary



- Are you in trouble with the Federation and have to appear before one of their tribunals?

- Do you have a dispute with your current Club/Team?

- Do you need assistance in relation to your contract negotiations with a soccer club?

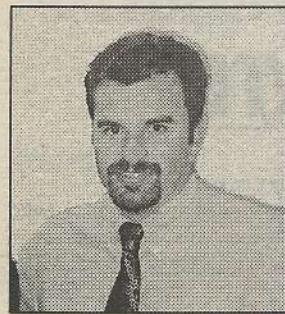
If you require assistance in relation to any of the above then please call Mr Andrew Smyrnis who has over 15 years experience in appearing before tribunals and assisting players, coaches and clubs in relation to their contract matters.

- Please feel free to call us for an obligation free quote on these and all your legal needs.

Smyrnis & Co

• 91 Glebe Point Road, GLEBE
Tel: (02) 9552 6288
Fax: (02) 9660 7349
• 1st Floor, 2-6 Regent St, KOGARAH
Tel: (02) 9522 6288
Fax: (02) 9660 7349
• 1st Floor, 196 Stacey St, BANKSTOWN
Tel: (02) 9793 8788
Fax: (02) 9793 9033
• 1st Floor, 83 Bronte Rd, BONDI JUNCTION
Tel: (02) 9388 0222
Fax: (02) 9660 7349

Australian Features



**The Four Diegos continue their VW Combi Van tour by dropping in on South Melbourne supercoach ...
Ange Postecoglou**

Diegos: "We are approaching that time of the season where coaches and players start inhaling the scent of finals football in the air and the fans are desperately wanting to lick the sweat and spit from the bodies of their soccer heroes. The finals are around the corner. Is South Melbourne in finals mode and what's your plan in the remaining weeks leading up to the big ones?"

Postecoglou: "We're not silly enough to say that we don't think about them. I've been thinking about finals for a while now in terms of our preparation. It was pretty clear that we were going to be in the finals a while ago. At the same time we have still got the week-to-week propositions."

"The midweek game against Glory a fortnight ago was pretty important for us. If we didn't win that it would've put us behind the eight ball in terms of finishing in the top two spots. So to answer your question, we are preparing for the finals but at the same time trying to finish in top spot which, we believe, is indicative of the season that we have had."

Diegos: "Last season you negotiated a big hurdle, winning the premiership as a coach for the first time. What's your approach this time around? Are you cocky and a little arrogant or a little wary and uncertain?"

Postecoglou: "Neither I guess. I think last year was a fantastic accomplishment for the club. I think it's wrong to say that I won the championship for South."

"The team and the club were primarily responsible for that. We are working along the same lines this year as last year. We obviously had a successful formula last season and with the exception of a couple refinements here and there caused by personnel changes, we are trying to adopt the same strategy as we head towards the finals series this season."

"We are trying to keep the players as

focused as we can, making sure that they realise just how difficult it's going to be. I've played in plenty of teams that looked great in the regular season but failed miserably in the finals. We were successful last year so we will go with the same formula this season."

Diegos: "After South Melbourne's

haven't had any really bad catastrophes since I've been coach so I'm just trying to dodge those 'Kiss of Death' bullets. I guess I've been pretty lucky."

Diegos: "Top-line coaches around the world have been known to, after years in the job, degenerate into obsessive creatures of habit."

Postecoglou: "I don't get disappointed. I've got to be honest, in terms of profile and

of Eddie Krncevic, David Mitchell and Frank Farina and how did it make you feel when Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold recently urged Soccer Australia to seriously look at you as a possible contender?"

Postecoglou: "I don't get disappointed. I've got to be honest, in terms of profile and

when you've got players going overseas on trial. I'm pretty much against that happening during the season. I encourage my players to do it during the off-season.

"Sometimes I think that it would be more unsettling if we didn't give them that opportunity when it arose. We don't want to stand in anyone's way and we don't want



SUPERCOACH ANGE ... BACK-TO-BACK TITLES?

impressive win against Carlton a few weeks ago, the Diegos witnessed the President of South, George Vasilopoulos, fight his way through a crowd of journalists at the press conference, pucker up and give you a big kiss on both cheeks.

"Is this something that George does a lot and do you ever worry, after a bad performance, that it may, in fact, be the 'Kiss of Death' that he is laying on you?"

Postecoglou: "Thankfully he doesn't do it a lot. It happens when he gets excited with the big games."

"It's pretty well known that George is pretty passionate about the club. He has been around a long time as president but still gets pretty excited when we win. We

"What is your finals routine and is there anything in your routine that drives people close to you mad?"

Postecoglou: "No not really — I'm pretty obsessive all year round. If anything, I probably get a little bit calmer around finals time. When I sense a fair bit of excitement around the club, I tend to calm down a little bit and try to stay focused. Generally though, I'm pretty one dimensional during the soccer season so I don't think my wife would see much difference."

Diegos: "In your midweek game a fortnight ago, South Melbourne's Vaughan Coveney got a bit excitable once he scored the team's winner against Perth Glory and proceeded to rip off his shirt. When players overseas do the same they tend to have some message scrawled on their under-garment like 'Stop NATO bombing', 'Thanks Mum' or 'What's your Phone Number Monica'?"

Is it true that staunch Kiwi Coveney had 'New Zealand Cheese is best' on his singlet and do you ever feel like ripping your shirt off when your team scores?"

Postecoglou: "Believe me, I don't think it would be wise for me to rip off my shirt. It would not be a pleasing look to all and sundry. As far as Vaughan is concerned I don't know whether he had anything written on his shirt but I do know that the marketing department was unhappy with the tacky singlet he was wearing."

Diegos: "What would be written on your under-garment if you did?"

Postecoglou: "I suppose a message to my wife would be an option but like I said, me ripping off my shirt would not be a good look."

Diegos: "There is much speculation over who is going to be the next Socceroo coach. Do you get disappointed that you are not often mentioned as a candidate with the likes

experience, compared to the other guys, I'm probably in a separate category. I understand why people would be putting the other names forward before mine."

"I don't think too much about the Socceroo job because the important thing for me to do is to concentrate on South Melbourne."

"If we win another championship this year and continue to be successful, obviously my name will keep on getting thrown up. That sort of thing will take care of itself. It's nice when someone like Graham Arnold and a couple of the other coaches mention my name. My attitude, though, has changed a lot on the issue of who should be appointed as Socceroo coach. Earlier on I was pretty easy about who they appointed as long it was a good choice and it was the best coach available."

"Now I just think it has to be a local coach. The main reason being that someone like Terry Venables didn't take us to the World Cup but landed on his feet and got another job and Roy Hodgson who it seems, has a choice of a number of potential jobs available to him, may view the Socceroo position as just another job for four years and if he fails, at the end of the day, he will be able to find another position quite easily, while Aussie soccer still hasn't achieved its goal."

"A local coach will put his blood, sweat and tears into it. Anyone who attended the MCG in 1997, would've been affected by the result and got a sense of what qualifying for the next World Cup means to this country. Rather than looking upon it as just another job, one of the local guys, I think, would do everything they possibly could to get the country there."

Diegos: "It seems that many of your squad have, at one stage or another this season, gone to on a trial to an overseas club."

"Has the unsettling effect this has on the team, been your biggest problem this year?"

Postecoglou: "It's not ideal

players hanging around the club if they think that we are denying them an opportunity. It then becomes unhealthy. It's not an ideal situation but unfortunately in this country we've got to put up with that."

Diegos: "Thanks Ange. Perhaps you might be more willing display your svelte physique to the crowd if you wore fashionable Four Diegos underwear under your coaching gear. It's in the mail as we speak. Adios Amigo!"

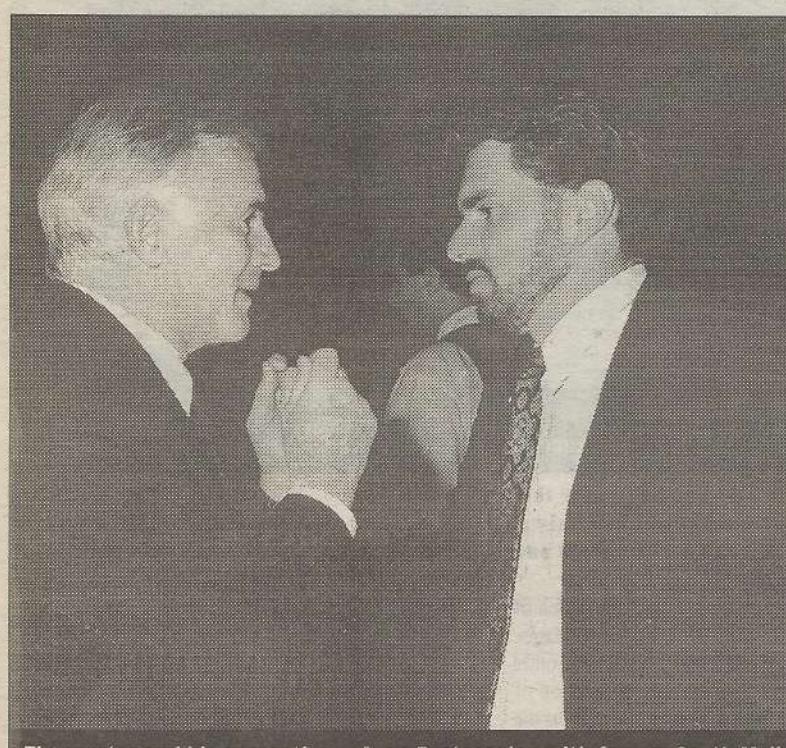


Postecoglou: "Thanks but no thanks Diegos. I think the salsa and hot Mexican chilli sauce stains, not to mention the scratch 'n' smell waft of Diegos body odour, would too much for me to bear. Thanks anyway. Adios amigos!"

The Four Diegos are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am-12 midday.

E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

Until next time ... Adios Amigos!



The master and his apprentice ... Ange Postecoglou with former South Melb coach Frank Arok.

SOCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

WORLD CUP SUPPORTERS' TOUR

The 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in seven cities across the USA is set to become the largest single women's sporting event in world history.

First class stadiums, big crowds, unprecedented media and public support, a slick professional spectacular — the WWC '99 mission statement is 'To stage a breakthrough event for women's sport and inspire the next generation of female athletes'. This event will be like nothing ever before imagined in women's soccer, and who better than the Americans to raise our sport into the spotlight.

Add to that an expanded field of sixteen of the world's finest footballing nations including Australia's own Matildas in their second World Cup finals, today a strong prospect and capable of upsetting the world's traditional powers.

Why don't you come and support the Matildas in their biggest ever campaign and witness women's football history in the making.

The Australian Women's Soccer Association has responded to public demand by appointing Flight Centre Australia Fair as the official travel agency for the 1999 Matildas World Cup Supporters Tour.

Two travel packages are on offer, the Gold Tour and the shorter Silver Tour, both believed to be the most competitively priced on the market.

The Gold Tour includes travel, transfers, accommodation, and premium tickets to the Matildas' three group matches, quarterfinal and the World Cup final over a period of 24 days. Total cost is \$6,350 per person.

The Silver Tour includes travel, transfers, accommodation, and premium tickets to the Matildas' three group matches over a period of 12 days. Total cost is \$5,050 per person.

All enquiries should be directed to Flight Centre Australia Fair, Shop 219 Nerang St, Southport QLD on phone (07) 5591.3677 or fax (07) 5531.4849.

World Cup officials are expecting a total of 500,000 spectators across the 32 matches. The Matildas would love nothing more than a large vocal contingent of Aussies amongst those crowds to help spur them on.

GOLD TOUR

Price:	\$6,350 per person
Duration:	24 days
Depart:	9 June 1999
Return:	13 July 1999

Air Travel: Economy return air travel from the capital city of your home state in Australia, and economy air travel to Boston, Washington DC, New York, San Jose, and Los Angeles Accommodation: Susse Chalet Boston Hotel, Boston Holiday Inn Central, Washington DC Pennsylvania Hotel, New York Radisson Plaza Hotel, San Jose Ramada West Hollywood, Los Angeles Match Tickets: Foxboro Stadium, Boston 20 June



Australia v Ghana
Norway v Russia

Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, Washington DC 23 June
Norway v Canada
Australia v Sweden

Giants Stadium, New York 26 June
Canada v Russia
Australia v China

Spartan Stadium, San Jose 30 June
Quarterfinals (Groups C & D)

Rose Bowl, Los Angeles 10 July 3rd Place Playoff
World Cup Final

Transfers/Tours: ATI Guides, city tours, airport and stadium transfers, and airport portage are included

Itinerary:

19-22 June Boston
22-25 June Washington DC
25-29 June New York
29 June - 8 July San Jose
8-11 July Los Angeles

SILVER TOUR

Price:	\$5,050 per person
Duration:	12 days
Depart:	19 June 1999
Return:	1 July 1999

Air Travel: Economy return air travel from the capital city of your home state in Australia, and economy air travel to Boston, Washington DC, and New York Accommodation: Susse Chalet Boston Hotel, Boston Holiday Inn Central, Washington DC Pennsylvania Hotel, New York

Match Tickets: Foxboro Stadium, Boston 20 June
Australia v Ghana
Norway v Russia

Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, Washington DC 23 June
Norway v Canada
Australia v Sweden

Giants Stadium, New York 26 June
Canada v Russia
Australia v China

Transfers/Tours: ATI Guides, city tours, airport and stadium transfers, and airport portage are included

Itinerary:

19-22 June Boston
22-25 June Washington DC
25-29 June New York

MATILDAS MATCH SCHEDULE

Seven weeks remain until the Matildas depart Canberra on 31 May bound for the World Cup. En route, the Australians will finalise their preparations with four testing internationals in the USA and Canada against USA, Brazil and Canada.

The Matildas will then arrive in Boston on 16 June in readiness for their opening World Cup fixture on 20 June against Ghana.

Meanwhile here at the AIS, National Coach Greg Brown has set out an intense schedule of two matches per week against the ACT State U15/16 Boys and the O35 Men.

AIS Matches

Wed 14 April	Sun 18 April
Thu 22 April	Sun 25 April
Wed 28 April	Sun 2 May
Thu 6 May	Sun 9 May
Wed 12 May	Sun 16 May
Wed 19 May	Sun 23 May
	Wed 26 May

3 June v USA Nike Centre, Portland USA
6 June v Brazil Civic Stadium, Portland USA
9 June v Canada Toronto, Canada
12 June v Canada Toronto, Canada

WORLD UPDATE

Apart from the recent Algarve Cup won by China over the USA, there have been several other international results of interest over the last month as teams go about their World Cup preparations.

Ghana issued a warning that they are more than making up the numbers with two solid performances against China, losing only 2-1 in both matches against the Olympic silver medallists in early March. Ghana are the second-placed African nation and contesting their first ever World Cup, and are very much an unknown in world football circles.

These results have been duly noted by the Matildas who face Ghana in their opening World Cup match.

By all reports, the Ghana and Nigerian players in the FIFA World All-Stars Team were both highly skilful footballers.

China are concentrating their preparations overseas, still on tour following the Algarve Cup. Away for a total of seven weeks, one wonders whether this is too long a period to be away from home, and whether it leaves them sufficient time back in China before then taking off for the World Cup itself.

Their schedule has included two matches against Germany and a narrow win to non-World Cup nation The Netherlands last week. Their tour will culminate with two internationals against the USA on 22 and 25 April.

Hosts USA will be under pressure to perform in their home World Cup and their preparation is a demanding schedule totalling 18 international matches during 1999

before the 19 June World Cup kick-off.

This averages out to approximately three games every four weeks. Regular competition is a vital component of anyone's program, but is this amount of internationals a recipe for burnout?

The odd chink in the previously impervious US armour appears to be surfacing including a less than impressive display against Mexico, and the Algarve draw against Sweden. It will be of particular interest to see if they can rise to the challenge come the World Cup.



Mia Hamm ... the US superstar will need to lift the faltering Americans for the coming World Cup.

Recent Results:

China	2	Ghana	1
China	2	Ghana	1
USA	3	Mexico	0
China	3	Germany	0
Germany	4	China	1
China	1	The Netherlands	0

Awards Tickets



Sharon Black (centre) last year's winner.

It's not too late to get your tickets for this Saturday night's Awards Night Fundraiser, AWSA's Ansett Summer Series awards and Nordic Cup team fundraiser.

The evening will culminate with the presentation of the Julie Dolan Medal to the 1998/99 national league Player of the Year as well as a small number of other special awards, and will also include an auction of valuable and collectable items to help raise funds for the Australian U21 Team to contest this year's Nordic Cup in Iceland.

Date:	Saturday 17 April
Time:	7.00 for 7.30pm
Venue:	Rydges Wentworth Hotel 61-101 Phillip St, Sydney
Dress:	Black Tie
Cost:	\$95 per person

\$55 per Ansett Summer Series player includes 3-course dinner and drinks. Please phone AWSA on (02) 6281.7999 to reserve your booking.

SUMMER IS... ERICSSON CUP

NEXT ROUND

Friday 16 April

Newcastle Breakers v Northern Spirit

Breakers Stadium

Sunday 18 April

Marconi Fairfield v Adelaide City

Marconi Stadium

South Melbourne v Canberra Cosmos

Bob Jane Stadium

Gippsland Falcons v Sydney United

Mobil Park

Adelaide Sharks v Brisbane Strikers

Hindmarsh Stadium

Sydney Olympic v Wollongong Wolves

Belmore Sports Ground

Perth Glory v Melbourne Knights

Perth Oval

Bye: Carlton SC

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

RESULTS ROUND 28

Northern Spirit	2
Adelaide Sharks	1
Brisbane Strikers	2
Gippsland Falcons	2
Carlton SC	1
Perth Glory	2
Wollongong Wolves	2
Marconi Fairfield	5
Sydney United	1
South Melbourne	0
Melbourne Knights	2
Sydney Olympic	1
Adelaide City	1
Newcastle Breakers	0

Bye Canberra Cosmos

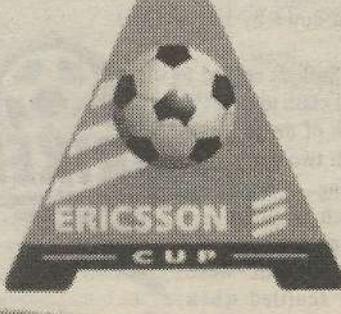
ERICSSON CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	27	16	6	5	49	26	54
Sydney United	26	17	3	6	50	32	54
Perth Glory	26	15	4	7	56	33	49
Northern Spirit	26	14	3	9	35	33	45
Adelaide City	26	12	6	8	38	25	42
Sydney Olympic	26	12	6	8	44	33	42
Marconi Fairfield	26	13	3	10	51	47	42
Newcastle Breakers	26	10	6	10	26	31	36
Brisbane Strikers	26	10	6	10	38	44	36
Carlton SC	27	9	4	14	46	45	31
Wollongong Wolves	26	8	6	12	40	47	30
Adelaide Sharks	26	7	6	13	34	41	27
Melbourne Knights	26	7	5	14	29	39	26
Gippsland Falcons	26	5	8	13	17	44	23
Canberra Cosmos	26	4	2	20	21	54	14

Anna

Happy 21st birthday and
best wishes

Love, David Beckham





ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 28
9-11 APRIL
1999

"3 POINTS IS 3 POINTS"

NORTHERN SPIRIT

Crook 1, Casserly 35

ADELAIDE SHARKS

Artone 27

At North Sydney Oval, Sydney

2

1

By Bonnie Mesiades

That was how Northern Spirit coach, Graham Arnold, summed up the lacklustre display by his team against the tenacious Adelaide Sharks at North Sydney Oval on Friday.

With only two rounds left, and with 45 points in the bag, Northern Spirit seems assured of a Top 6 berth in their debut season.

The Sharks, on the other hand, had the proverbial 'nothing to play for' but put on a competent, and sometimes attractive, display.

"They're always the hardest games," said Arnold. "When you're under pressure to win and the other side has nothing to play for. They can afford to come out and enjoy themselves, whereas we have to win."

Adelaide Sharks coach, Adrian Santrac, agreed. "It was an important game for Northern Spirit because of the way the competition is poised."

Barely had the 15,246 people settled into position after The Bob Stand gave a splendid and stirring rendition of the national anthem, when Ian Crook scored a cracking goal from the edge of the box. The ever-aggressive Robbie Slater pounced on a mistake by Alex Kuzmanovic to put in a cross in Clayton Zane's direction whose dummy (or indecision?) set up Crook.

Jubilation for the boisterous Bob Standers who were still somewhat excited after having been entertained just prior to kick-off by subtly endowed young women cartwheeling in front of them with barely painted-on

Spirit tops in what must be another first for the Ericsson Cup competition courtesy of Northern Spirit — a Club endorsed and organised semi-streak!!

With a goal inside the first minute, it was shaping up to be a great night for the Bob Standers, and it looked like it might be a Spirit Whitewash rather than a Shark Attack.

However, while dominating possession in the first twenty minutes or so, Northern Spirit was unable to take advantage of their early lead. Despite the early setback, the Adelaide Sharks fought their way back into the game. As well as engineering a few attempts at goal, the pressure led to Elias Demourtzidis being brought down outside the box in the 27th minute.

After a mini-convention around the ball between several Sharkies, Corey Artone took the free kick and from the moment of impact between boot and ball, you could tell it was goalward bound. Artone's shot lifted, zoomed past a bevy of players in the penalty area in an arc, and slotted neatly under the crossbar, out of reach of Paul Henderson.

The Sharkies went close to being ahead less than 90 seconds later when Alex Castro hit the post from an Alex Duric cross, at a time when Henderson was stranded and the rest of the Spirit defence was napping.

This jolted Northern Spirit to step up a gear and, despite Spirit's midfield still being somewhat brittle, they scored what proved to be the winning goal in the 35th minute when Luke Casserly made another marauding run on the right.

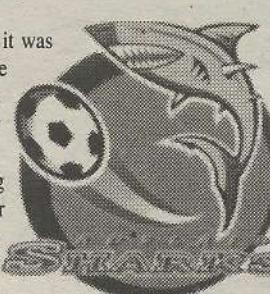
His shot took a deflection off Paul Pezos and left keeper Nathan Wildy stranded.

Although there were plenty of chances created by both sides, the second half saw no goals — but it was nonetheless full of tension and excitement.

The slick surface of North Sydney Oval was even

faster than usual due to light rain, which was probably to the Adelaide Sharks' detriment. They are normally comfortable on the ball, compared with the more robust style of Northern Spirit, but the speedy surface appeared to challenge their usual style.

For Northern Spirit, Henderson again proved his worth with some more solid saves, particularly a flying effort from a Castro strike and another shot from Aaron Westervelt which bounced awkwardly in front of him. At the other end, Wildy was rarely forced to make a save, but he was also assisted by desperate clearances off the line from Branko Milosevic and Artone.



Ian Crook ... a beautifully taken goal by the ex-Norwich player.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 15,246

Referee: Mark Shield

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Crook, Rudan, Casserly, Marusic (Watkins, 85m), Slater, Arnold, Blakapic, Zane, Langdon (Moss, 75m), Bingley

Adelaide Sharks: Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Kuzmanovic, Artone, Milosevic, Duric, Pezos (Kokkinopolitis, 82m), Porter, Westervelt, Demourtzidis (Mihalopoulos, 67m)

Yellows:

Northern Spirit: Crook, Marusic

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Henderson (NS)

2: Artone (AS)

1: Crook (NS)

Arnold said after the game that he thought the pressure had got to his team.

"We had to get the three points. Other teams like Marconi, Sydney Olympic and Adelaide City will be in the same situation later this weekend."

He acknowledged that there's some work to do before the finals.

"We've been working a lot on the midfield, but it's still not right. I was happier with their efforts tonight though."

With Slater's yellow card count ominously high, Arnold hinted that he may rest the captain for the next two weeks until all cards are wiped for the finals series.

Santrac said that he thought the Sharks played well.

"We came here to play football and I was pleased with what they did. It's important that we enjoy the next two weeks."

In summary, a gritty effort from Northern Spirit with the three points going their way mainly thanks to the efforts of Henderson, and with Adelaide Sharks providing yet another nail-biting contest for the Spirit fans.

STRIKERS' NEMESIS FLIES OFF WITH A POINT

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Davison 43, McLaren 57

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

Puca 34, Perinovic 54

At Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

2

2

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers were locked out of gatecrashing the Ericsson Cup playoffs when held to a 2-2 draw by bogey side Gippsland Falcons at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

And the Strikers, who had beaten Gippsland only once in their previous five clashes, had to come from behind twice to share the points.

Although the Strikers dominated the match, particularly in the first half, Gippsland could have snatched victory in the dying stages when Falcons' striker Sasha Becvinkovski's close range header was plucked down by keeper Clint Bolton.

The Strikers needed to win the vital clash to stay in touch of the top six with two game remaining.

Coach John Kosmina's hopes of a play-off berth were finally scuttled when their season's nightmare of failing to take chances

returned to haunt the former champions yet again.

The Strikers took charge early in the game but it was Gippsland who weathered the early storm before breaking the deadlock in the 34th minute.

Against the run of play midfielder Robbie Puca pounced on a loose ball on the corner of the box before drilling a shot into the top corner of the net giving Bolton no chance.

The Strikers had three chances in the opening 25 minutes to break the early deadlock with veteran forward Andy Harper playing a dominant role.

Gippsland's shock goal brought renewed life back into the home side's attack with another three chances going astray in as many minutes in search of the equaliser.

However, good goalkeeping from Bojo Jevdjievic and some

misunderstanding between Strikers frontmen Wayne Knipe and Harper enabled the visitor to cling to its lead until the home side finally drew level two minutes from the break.

Rookie defender Andrew Davidson, playing only his eleventh NSL game, notched a memorable first national league goal, nodding home a Nick Meredith cross.

The Strikers found themselves trailing again nine minutes after the break when Gippsland striker Marko Perinovic found himself with space to head home a cross from midfielder Levent Osman.

The Strikers, who lost midfielder Jeremy Harris just after the break, came back for the second time in the match to draw level after a



Andy Harper ... a great performance by the ex-Marconi striker.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 2,984

Referee: G Connolly (Melbourne)

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Bell, Zonicich, Harper, McLaren, Knipe, Hews, Harris (Hughes 48), Meredith (Steffanutto 68), Davidson.

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjievic, Gotis, Osman, MacNicol (Hutchinson 45), Robertson (Mitroulas 78) Canosa, Perinovic, Vargas, Hastie, Puca, Becvinkovski.

Yellows:

Brisbane Strikers: Bell 88m

Gippsland Falcons: Gotis 39, Puca 87, Osman 90

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Harper (BS)

2: Hews (BS)

1: Perinovic (GF)

costly error in the Gippsland defence.

Strikers frontman Stu McLaren scored his fifth goal of the season pouncing on some sloppy defence from the visitor before slotting his equaliser past Jevdjievic.

McLaren had a chance to put the Strikers in front for the first time but his attempt from an acute angle in the 60th minute struck the side netting.





ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 28
9-11 APRIL
1999

NATHAN DAY: CLINICAL PUMA

CANBERRA COSMOS

Magnacca 65

SYDNEY UNITED

Day 3, 38, Kupresak 52, Moric 88
At Bruce Stadium, Canberra
(Round 27 played Mon. night)

By Nick Guoth

Sydney United confirmed that it is a two horse race for the Championship when they swept past the Canberra Cosmos in a clinical 4-1 win.

Solid finishing backed up by discipline in defence paved the way for United to win this match.

Canberra were there worst enemy returning to the ways that generated the thirteen game losing streak. They made too many errors and took a number of wrong options.

As with some of the early games, the Cosmos allowed an early goal. Only four minutes in, Walter Ardone exposed the left side of the defence and sent a

cross for Nathan Day to finish off and give Sydney the early lead.

Canberra tried to get back into the game, but their poor play hindered any chance of an equaliser. The closest they came was when Danny Burt headed over from an Ivo de Jesus corner.

Then towards the end of the first half, Sydney United were given an indirect free-kick just outside the box when Toplica Popovich raised his feet in a challenge. The ball was pushed to Day whose shot deflected off a defender and easily beat the wrongfooted Vilson Knezevic.

Sydney could have increased their lead just prior to the break first when Steve Berry was one-on-one with Knezevic but decided to go wide, and secondly when a tangle between Amarildo Miglietti and Danny Townsend could have eventuated in a penalty decision against the former.

Neither team made any changes for the second period whether in personnel or in tactics, as Sydney continued to attack trying to put the game away.



Seven minutes in and a cross from Townsend was intercepted by Burt who tried to lay the ball back to Knezevic, but it went for a corner. Day sent the corner-kick towards the far post where Velimir Kupresak rose above all to loop a header over Knezevic for Sydney's third.

Midway through the half, Canberra finally found a way through. Anthony Magnacca received the ball on the edge of the box, turned a defender and sent a low drive past Mike Gibson.

Sydney should have regained its three goal lead immediately after substitute Daniel Kukucka sent the ball over an empty net with Knezevic on the ground following a challenge with Townsend.

United finally killed the game in the last minutes after Ante Moric and Jacob Burns played a 1-2 to pass Miglietti and Moric's shot went under Knezevic.

United's coach Dave Mitchell was very happy with his team's workrate. "We worked and supported each other. Also it was good to get the early goal."

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 2,111

Referee: M. Breeze

Canberra Cosmos: Knezevic, Popovich, Burt, Marcina, Magnacca, Buljan (Musitano 61), Miglietti, DeJesus, Gonzales, Purdue, Wingell (Arranz 61).

Sydney United: Gibson, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrakic, Bennett, Berry, Ardone, Burns, Townsend (Moric 73), Day (Kukucka 65).

Yellows:

Canberra: Marcina (28), Popovich (31), Arranz (66)

Players Votes of the Year:

- 3: N. Day (SU)
- 2: V. Kupresak (SU)
- 1: J. Burns (SU)

Tom Sermanni on the other side said his team were braindead and thoughtless. "We approached the game

WHERE'S THE DESIRE AT OLYMPIC?

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Kutlesovski 62, Podeljak 70

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Kalantzis 24
At Knights Stadium, Melbourne

By Dwygth Tuffnell

Sydney Olympic's hopes of making the finals took a minor dent on Sunday night when they lost 1-2 at Melbourne Knights.

Olympic had taken the lead in the first half and had looked in control until two Knights goals in eight minutes mid way through the second half.

Olympic's game this weekend at home to Wollongong now takes on extra importance, as does their final game of the regular season, away to fellow play-off hopefuls, Adelaide City.

The Knights, with little else than pride to play for, looked the side who was after a spot in the finals, not Olympic.

That was the thing that disappointed Olympic coach, Branko Culina, the most.

"You have to question how hungry some people are if they allow a side that has nothing to play for back into the after being 1-0 down at half time" lamented Culina.



"Why should Melbourne Knights, 1-0 down, have a greater desire than Sydney Olympic? We're playing for a spot in the finals and they're playing for pride.

"We like to make it tough for ourselves. We really haven't been able to put a string of wins together for the whole season, we've been a yo-yo team all year."

The Knights had started the game brightly, but it was the visitors who created more of an impression in the chances department.

After Joe Rajher cleared a Pablo Cardozo header off the line in the 10th minute, Knights 'keeper Martin John produced a good save from Scott Thomas' effort from just outside the area.

Olympic went ahead after 24 minutes when Mark Brennan released Chris Kalantzis.

Kalantzis, clear of the defence, raced through and beat John with a smart left foot lob.

The Knights hit back through Tom Podeljak, in his second game back in the side after trials overseas, who had a shot that rolled just wide of the post.

Shortly after that, Ivan Kelic couldn't quite get on the end of a cross after a forceful run from Ante Deak.

Just after the half time break, Rajher cleared off the line once again, this time from an Ante Juric header.



Ice Kutlesovski, with his head bandaged after an earlier collision with Scott Baillie, had a great chance to draw the Knights level after he was played through by

Ante Kovacevic, but rushed his shot and sent it wide.

The equaliser arrived in the 62nd minute when Kutlesovski was the first to react to a rebound, pouncing after a goal mouth scramble.

In the 70th minute, the Knights were ahead from one of the goals of the season.

Podeljak received the ball deep in defence and then embarked on a solo run all the way to just outside the Olympic penalty area.

Ignoring both Deak and Paul Magdic on either side of him, Podeljak instead chose to shoot himself and found the bottom corner of Jim Kourtis' net.

Olympic battled to get something out of the game but a stoppage time strike by substitute Norman Tome that was comfortably dealt with by John was the best they could muster.

Knights coach Josip Biskic said he was still confident at half time with his side a goal down.

"I told the players that the most important thing was not to concede another goal," he said.

"It was a great comeback. We deserved to win, especially after our performance in the second half."

Biskic said that the aim for the Knights was simply to finish as high as they could.

"I've told the players to play for themselves, and

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Approx. 1,800

Referee: Jeremy Blaney

Melbourne Knights: John, Nastevski, Kovacevic, Kelic, Rajher, Kiratzoglou (Magdic 63), Deak (Bazzano 79), Reda, Kullesovski, Banini, Podeljak.

Sydney Olympic: Kourtis, Thomas, Tselenis, Cardozo, Kalantzis (Carle 72), Brennan, Juric, Baillie, Durakovic, Zorbas (Augerinos 79), Jomaa (Tome 56).

Yellow:

Sydney Olympic: Tselenis (34)

Players Votes of the Year:

- 3: Rajher (MK)
- 2: Kovacevic (MK)
- 1: Tselenis (SO)

finish the season on a high note.

"I can't complain about their performance today, especially against a good side like Olympic" ended Biskic.

Culina mentioned that was the side was missing both Brett Emerton and Jason Culina, both away on Young Socceroo duty in Nigeria.

"They are the heart and soul of the team" said Culina.

"Pablo Cardozo hasn't scored since they left, he's dropped away a little bit."

WILSON A CLASS ACT IN STEEL CITY CLASH

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

Haythornthwaite 28, Wilson 66,

Buonavoglia 82

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

Surjan 60

At Breakers Stadium, Newcastle
(Round 27 postponed match)

By Soccer Weekly

Newcastle Breakers once again showed they are a side good enough for the top six after overrunning a lethargic Wollongong Wolves 3-1 last Wednesday night at Breakers stadium.

The game, originally set down for the Monday was delayed two days due to heavy rain in the Hunter region.

Tom 'long-range specialist' Haythornthwaite did it again with a mighty shot in the 25th minute with his left foot, giving the home side a 1-0 lead at the break.

The Wolves equalised in the 60th minute through Anthony Surjan when his header from close range gave

Breakers 'keeper Bob Catlin no chance. It was 1-1 and all to play for in the battle of the NSW steel cities.

The Breakers, showing admirable fitness in the conditions, outran their opponents in the final stages of the game, particularly as the Reds went down to 10.

Wolves defender David Huxley was sent off in the 64th minute when his bad tackle from behind brought down John Buonavoglia as the little genius was through.

Shane Pryce's ensuing free-kick and minutes later a strike from big Moroccan Fouad Umlil were brilliantly saved by Wolves 'keeper Daniel Beltrame, thus keeping the visitors in the game.

Two minutes later however the brilliant defender Mark Wilson gave the Breakers the lead via a header.

And with eight minutes remaining dynamic John Buonavoglia ran onto a through ball, dummied young keeper Beltrame and stroked the ball into an empty net much to the delight of the 'Rowdies' behind the goal, to give the Breakers a deserved 3-1 victory.

Next season is looking good for Sterrey's Breakers, with the side playing confident and stylish football to finish off his first season in the Ericsson Cup.



John Buonavoglia ... his third goal finished off Wolves.

MATCH STATS

Crowd: 3,017

Referee: Brett Hugo

Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, Sanderson (Ritchie 77), McManus, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek, Shannon, Haythornthwaite (Umlil 70), Yoon (Maguire 60).

Wollongong Wolves: Beltrame, Souris, Stanton (Quennett 78), Horsley, Surjan, Dimoski (Langan 64), Chipperfield, Youniss (Brooks 78), Hull, Masi, Reid.

Yellows:
Wolves: Souris, Dimoski Masi, Horsley
Breakers: Catlin Shannon

Red:
Wolves: Huxley 64

Votes for Player of the Year:

- 3: Wilson (NB)
- 2: Buonavoglia (NB)
- 1: Beltrame (WW)



ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 28
9-11 APRIL
1999

GLORY MAKES FINALS!

CARLTON SC

Martin 71

PERTH GLORY

Boutsianis 10, Despotovski pen 90

At Olympic Park, Melbourne

1

2

By Ralph Barba

Perth Glory completed a daring smash and grab mission to controversially snatch the points against a plucky Carlton outfit, 2-1 at Olympic Park on Sunday night.

The Glory went into the contest striving to keep their top two hopes alive whilst also knowing that a draw would confirm their participation in the Ericsson Cup finals for the first time since their inception three seasons ago.

"The 3 points was not the important thing tonight. The draw confirmed that Perth is going to play in the finals for the first time. I'm very happy for all concerned because we made history tonight," said Perth coach, Bernd Stange.

In the Carlton camp the mood was very different. "We outplayed them. They weren't in it at any stage. Today I really felt for my players. Soccer is a cruel game," said a frustrated Carlton coach, Eddie Krncevic.

The contest started with the 'Blues', a team playing for no more than self-respect, taking it up to the visitors.

Young find Steve Martin shone with his penetrative runs from midfield, creating a gilt-edged chance in the 5th minute for the lively Tricarico, only to be denied by the steady Anthony Franken in the Glory goal.

Carlton captain, Andrew Marth was in everything early, pinning the visitors to their defensive third with his forthright distribution and uncompromising challenges in the middle of the park.

But Perth's championship pedigree came to the fore in the 10th minute, scoring their first goal as a result of a deadly counterattack against the run of play.

Ironically it was a mistake from live-wire Martin that inspired a 30 metre run and pinpoint cross from former Carlton grand final defender, Robert Trajkovski, that was collected in stride by the clinical Con Boutsianis, who made no mistake from 16 metres to make it 1-0.

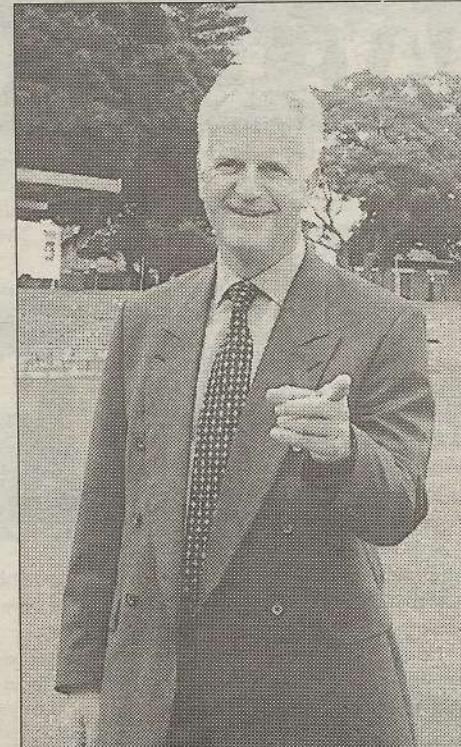
The scoreline belied the state of play with Marth, Lapsansky and Martin continuing to control the game. Perth, although defending in numbers, had lost its shape with the visitor's only response an occasional counterattack.

The second stanza saw Carlton's left flanker, Marcus Stergiopoulos, stamp his authority on the game. His clash with former teammate, Robert Trajkovski, the highlight of an entertaining battle.

Glory was searching for some relief from the incessant Carlton pressure and nearly earned some joy from Garcia and Boutsianis strikes in the 60th and 62nd minute. Alert keeping from Carlton custodian, Dean Anastasiadis thwarted the visitors on both occasions.

It was in the 70th minute that the home team was finally rewarded for their efforts. Great work from Lapsansky, Marth and Tricarico, allowed the tireless Martin to sensationaly slot the ball home from an acute angle to make it 1-1.

The 'Blues' continued to press forward in their desperate search for a winner. They instead fell victim to a controversial refereeing decision by Matthew Breeze,



Glory coach Bernd Stange ... "we made history tonight."

who awarded Perth a penalty for a David Cervinski handball after an innocuous cross into the box. The cool Despotovski sent Anastasiadis the wrong way to make it 2-1 in the 93rd minute, giving Perth Glory the full three points.

Perth coach, Bernd Stange, paid tribute to Carlton and

coolly scored to make it an exciting 2-3, after Michael Brooks was awarded the penalty.

Yet just as the momentum was swinging the way of the plucky South Coast side, three minutes later the incomparable Brad Maloney scored — he repeated the dose again, from a rebound off an Awaritefe penalty to complete his hat-trick and make it 5-2.

Young Beltrame once again showed why he is so highly rated, and Sasho Dimoski was dynamic for the Wolves machine that has now lost two on the trot (both against NSW sides).

New player Gerald Quennet once again looked sharp when he came on, as did Saso Petrovski.



Pryce smashed a long shot straight back in. Petkovic made no mistake this time.

Four minutes later, Mori appeared to take a dive just outside the penalty box after losing possession. Referee Diomis awarded the free kick. Mori stepped up and rocketed the ball past the Newcastle wall into the top right hand corner of the net. What a strike! Catlin managed to get a touch with his left hand, but could not deflect the ball — 1-0 City.

Buonavoglia replied, finishing a move from Mark Wilson and Brad Wieczorek, but he shot over the bar. City countered, but Catlin stole the show. Veart flicked the ball to Brain, who sent Mori through unmarked into the left hand side of the box.

Catlin spread himself at Mori's feet to save — sheer brilliance. A minute later he was at it again after Hassell tore through the defence and slammed the ball at the goal. Catlin got his left hand to it, deflecting the shot over the bar. Unbelievable keeping.

Buonavoglia continued to pressure City in reply, but Ivanovic had his measure, strolling through the game as if it was a picnic.

Newcastle came into the attack more in the second half, with Thomas Haythornthwaite and Robert Shannon feeding Fouad Umlil down the left, and Buonavoglia switching to the right. They were unlucky not to get a penalty ten minutes in when Costanzo appeared to upend Umlil in the box.

Wilson and Buonavoglia combined well but could not get past Ivanovic, Tobin and Costanzo. The introduction of young Chris Tancheski changed that, his speed

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Official 2,887

Referee: Matthew Breeze

Yellows:

Carlton: Stergiopoulos, Douglas, Marth, Lapsansky, Thompson, Tricarico (Pir 81), Cervinski, Della Rocca, Martin (Grbac 73).

Perth Glory: Franken, Trajkovski (Hamwell 90), Miller, Circati, Deans, Carbone, Naven, Garcia (J Carbone 88th min), Edwards, Despotovski, Boutsianis (Halpin 75th min).

Players Votes of the Year:

- 3: Lapsansky (Carlton)
- 2: Marth (Carlton)
- 1: Martin (Carlton)

their coach. "I'm disappointed that a team like Carlton are where they are at the moment. I have a big opinion of Eddie Krncevic. I'm sure he can arrest the slump that the club is in."

On the penalty he was very philosophical. "It was a penalty. If the referee blows the whistle, there is no discussion."

Krnicevic, on the other hand, was a little less diplomatic. "I didn't see it. The ref was nowhere near it, so I doubt he saw it either."

STALLIONS RUN WILD

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

Dimoski 63, Surjan pen 75

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

Trajanovski 3, Maloney 26, 80, 83

Hooker 56

At Brandon Park, Wollongong

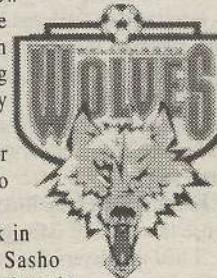
2

5

By Soccer Weekly

Matt Horsley predicted there would be goals, and he wasn't wrong. Seven goals and an exciting game, sadly for the Wolves they were on the end of a 5-2 thumping by the league's vastly improving Marconi Fairfield.

The rains in NSW turned the pitch into a quagmire, but this did not take away from the game as a spectacle.



Marconi went into the halftime break two goals to the good courtesy of Kris Trajanovski and super-skipper Brad Maloney.

In the 59th minute new Stallions signing Robbie Hooker made it three with a classy chip over Young Wolf custodian Danny Beltrame.

This was the signal for the battling Wolves to stage a rearguard action.

They pulled one back in the 64th minute when Sasho Dimoski struck a cracker into the top right corner.

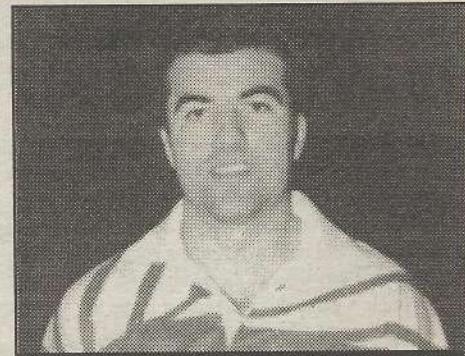
Following this, in the 75th minute, Anthony Surjan

coolly scored to make it an exciting 2-3, after Michael Brooks was awarded the penalty.

Yet just as the momentum was swinging the way of the plucky South Coast side, three minutes later the incomparable Brad Maloney scored — he repeated the dose again, from a rebound off an Awaritefe penalty to complete his hat-trick and make it 5-2.

Young Beltrame once again showed why he is so highly rated, and Sasho Dimoski was dynamic for the Wolves machine that has now lost two on the trot (both against NSW sides).

New player Gerald Quennet once again looked sharp when he came on, as did Saso Petrovski.



Wolves' Sash Dimoski ... a great match but not enough. Wollongong lost 2-5.

As for Marconi, Brad Maloney seems to be 40% of the team, his performance was once again outstanding and bodes well for this Sunday's absolutely crucial home match against Adelaide City. Both sides are on 42 points with two games left.

MORI STRIKE BREAKS BREAKERS

ADELAIDE CITY

Mori 30

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

0

At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

1

0

By Margaret Bowden & Donald Campbell

Big Bobby Catlin and poor finishing prevented a City goalfest at Hindmarsh on Sunday. As Zippy the Zebra pranced up and down trying to get the crowd to make a noise, the tense supporters sat on the edge of their seats in nailbiting silence as City streamed into attack over and over again, but failed to find the back of the net.

This was a must win game for City and the fans knew it. Newcastle, resplendent in iridescent yellow, at times had their entire team in the defensive penalty area. The ploy worked, with many City shots blocked or cleared.

When City's forwards broke through, the image of 88.5 Coast FM Player of the Match Catlin loomed large enough to distract them. Ironically, a dubious Damian Mori free kick two metres outside the area undid all their hard work.

Mori had a shot blocked in the 4th minute, Carlo Talladira shot wide in the 7th, then Catlin reacted brilliantly to fingertip a smashing Bradley Hassell header over the bar in the 9th.

Louis Brain had a clear chance in the 15th after Mori sent him into the box with a defence splitting pass, but he also shot wide. Two minutes later, Milan Ivanovic dispossessed John Buonavoglia and sent a long pass up the middle to Mori.

Mori turned and sped upfield, finishing with an off target long shot. How long before City managed to find the net? Or would they?

Hassell, Carl Veart, Mori, Brain and Talladira ceaselessly attacked the goal but most shots went wide or straight to Catlin. Robert Shannon, Todd McManus and Andrew Roberts played well in defence for Newcastle, making City's attackers work hard for every chance.

Newcastle had a much smaller share of the attack, but could have scored early. A low Buonavoglia shot from the left caused an 8th minute scramble and panic in the 6 yard area when Jason Petkovic fumbled.

In the 26th minute, Newcastle threatened with two shots in quick succession from a corner. Alex Tobin blocked the first, Angelo Costanzo cleared, but Shane

Pryce smashed a long shot straight back in. Petkovic made no mistake this time.

Four minutes later, Mori appeared to take a dive just outside the penalty box after losing possession. Referee Diomis awarded the free kick. Mori stepped up and rocketed the ball past the Newcastle wall into the top right hand corner of the net. What a strike! Catlin managed to get a touch with his left hand, but could not deflect the ball — 1-0 City.

Buonavoglia replied, finishing a move from Mark Wilson and Brad Wieczorek, but he shot over the bar. City countered, but Catlin stole the show. Veart flicked the ball to Brain, who sent Mori through unmarked into the left hand side of the box.

Catlin spread himself at Mori's feet to save — sheer brilliance. A minute later he was at it again after Hassell tore through the defence and slammed the ball at the goal. Catlin got his left hand to it, deflecting the shot over the bar. Unbelievable keeping.

Buonavoglia continued to pressure City in reply, but Ivanovic had his measure, strolling through the game as if it was a picnic.

Newcastle came into the attack more in the second half, with Thomas Haythornthwaite and Robert Shannon feeding Fouad Umlil down the left, and Buonavoglia switching to the right. They were unlucky not to get a penalty ten minutes in when Costanzo appeared to upend Umlil in the box.

Wilson and Buonavoglia combined well but could not get past Ivanovic, Tobin and Costanzo. The introduction of young Chris Tancheski changed that, his speed

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,300 unofficial

Referee: Con Diomis

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira, Mori, Veart, Costanzo, Hassell (Sabljak 76), Hawrysiuk, Kim, Brain.

Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, Sanderson, McManus, Wieczorek (Tancheski 66), Wilson, Buonavoglia, Umlil, Shannon, Haythornthwaite (Yoon 79).

Players Votes of the Year:

- 3: Bob Catlin (Newcastle)
- 2: Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City)
- 1: John Buonavoglia (Newcastle)

cutting through the defence and setting up Buonavoglia for several close range shots. Buonavoglia caught the Adelaide City disease, doing everything but finish.

Veart missed two sitters, put on a plate for him by Mori, and the game finished with a mad scramble in the City defence as Newcastle pressured for the equaliser until the last second.

National Youth League

Compiled by Roy Hay and proudly sponsored by Prestige Wedding and Function Centre,
Argon Video Productions

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Round 28

Saturday 10 April

Albury Wodonga 2 South Melbourne 8

Sunday 11 April

Carlton 3 Gippsland Falcons 1

Melbourne Knights v Bye



Wednesday 21 April

Bulleen Inter v VIS
(Veneto Park, 7pm)



League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	22	15	4	3	62	26	49
South Melbourne	21	12	3	6	41	22	39
Melbourne Knights	22	9	3	10	44	44	30
VIS	17	8	5	4	33	27	29
Gippsland Falcons	21	8	3	10	35	34	27
Bulleen Inter Kings	19	7	3	9	26	34	24
Albury Wodonga	20	1	1	18	20	74	4

ROUND 29

Saturday 17 April

VIS v Albury Wodonga, (Grange Reserve, 1 pm)

Sunday 18 April

South Melbourne v Bulleen Inter,
(Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30 pm)

Gippsland Falcons v VIS, (Mobil Park, 3.30 pm)
Melbourne Knights v Carlton, (Knights Stadium, 1 pm)

Bye v Albury Wodonga

ROUND 28

Wednesday 21 April

Bulleen Inter v VIS, (Veneto Park, 7pm)

LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashoian	South Melb	17
Deniz Ekici	Carlton	10
Scott McDonald	VIS	8
Tony Ouliaris	Carlton	7
Angelo Motsopoulos	VIS	7

Southern Summary ... South Melbourne had a comfortable eight-two win over Albury Wodonga at Myrtleford in Round 28 last Saturday.

Albury Wodonga was in the game for most of the first period scoring twice in that time through Quentin O'Grady.

But gradually South Melbourne got on top and goals followed in steady procession from Andrew Mashoian 2, Adam Poole 2 and Grant Kennedy 2, and singles by Daniel Malina and Erhan Bayraktar.

John Kennedy reports it was clean, open game, well refereed, but his South Melbourne team proved just a little too classy in the end.

Carlton beat Gippsland Falcons by three goals to one at Olympic Park in a match which was free to spectators as Carlton said thank-you to its fans. Deniz Ekici, Dusko Delic and Adam Pongho scored for Carlton.

The match between Bulleen Inter and the Victorian Institute of Sport will be played on 21 April.

The VIS beat Johore Reserves in the opening match of its Malaysian tour.

Northern Summary ... Sydney Olympic just beat NSWIS 2-1 on a boggy pitch at Valentine Park to consolidate second spot on the Northern ladder.

Leo Carle broke through for Olympic after 59 minutes in what had been a very tough encounter. Jim Bakis made it two in 73 minutes, but three minutes later Shane Cansdell-Sheriff reduced the leeway.

Defender Matthew Rosier who has filled in brilliantly for Mark Byrnes who is in Nigeria with the young Socceroos, came up from the back in the last minute and had a shot with his weaker right foot expertly saved by Peter Petrovski in the Olympic goal to leave the final score at two-one to Olympic.

Queensland Academy of Sport downed the Northern Spirit Colts by three goals to nil at Suncorp Stadium. Daniel Varma opened in twelve minutes, followed by Russell Miner in 40. Sean Walsh got the only goal of the second half in 68 minutes.

There were two nine-nil results this week, the first when Northern Spirit beat Wollongong Wolves Colts. The top scorer was Paul Foster with four goals in 16, 35, 57 and 75 minutes, and the others came from Milos Milovanovic and Daniel Watkins who scored two each and Adam Snyder.

The AIS had a similar result against the Sydney United Colts. Scorers were Joshua Kennedy with a hat-trick in 30, 30 and 57 minutes, Ivan Ergic who bagged two, and Kev Gulesserian, Ljubo Milicevic, John Cvetanovski, who got the opener in the first minute, and Jade North.

This win sets up a marvellous final round game between the AIS and NSWIS.

Wollongong Wolves beat Marconi Fairfield three-nil with goals by Paul Tuturevski, Kane Maccabi and Samer Nicola.

Newcastle Breakers had a 2-1 away win over Marconi Colts thanks to goals by Borghetto and Ritchie.

Sydney United had two sent off but just managed to beat Sydney Olympic Academy 4-3.. Daniel Kukucka scored twice late on to secure the victory.

NSWIS' (Round 29) went away to Sydney United Colts and won 3-1, Dylan McAllister two goals and Simon Catanzaro one. Daniel Willoughby replied for the Colts.

In the Round 27 catch-up game Sydney United had another four-three result in its favour this time away to ACTAS. Jason Kencevski and Steve Jordan each scored twice for United, while Adam Williams, Daniel Aliffi and Matthew Jullienne scored for ACTAS.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Round 27

Monday 5 April

ACTAS 3 Sydney United 4

Round 29

Sydney United Colts 1 NSWIS 3

Round 28

Saturday 10 April

Northern Spirit	9	Wollongong Wolves Colts	0
QAS	3	Northern Spirit Colts	0
AIS	9	Sydney United Colts	0
Sydney United	4	Sydney Olympic Academy	3

Sunday 11 April

Wollongong Wolves	3	Marconi Fairfield	0
Marconi Fairfield Colts	1	Newcastle Breakers	2
NSWIS	1	Sydney Olympic	2

ACTAS v Bye



League Ladder



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	27	19	7	1	99	18	64
Sydney Olympic	26	19	3	4	85	28	60
Northern Spirit	26	18	2	6	63	22	56
NSWIS	27	17	3	7	68	29	54
Newcastle Breakers	25	16	5	4	57	26	53
Wollongong Wolves	25	16	2	7	77	27	50
Marconi Fairfield	25	15	5	5	71	21	50
QAS	25	14	2	9	69	40	44
Sydney United	26	10	4	12	50	48	34
Marconi Fairfield Colts	25	7	4	14	31	44	25
ACTAS	26	5	3	18	35	73	18
Northern Spirit Colts	26	4	3	19	23	96	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	26	3	5	18	26	98	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	27	100	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	25	1	3	21	15	127	6

ROUND 29

Friday 16 April

Newcastle Breakers v Northern Spirit,
(Breakers Stadium, 5.45 pm)

Saturday 17 April

Marconi Fairfield v Marconi Fairfield Colts,
(Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)

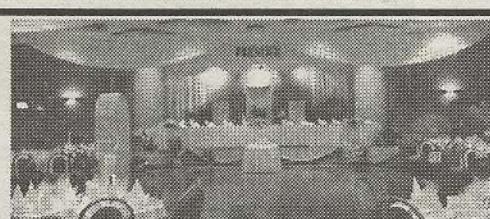
Northern Spirit Colts v Sydney United,
(Christie Park, 4 pm)

Wollongong Wolves Colts v QAS,
(Brandon Park No 2, 4 pm)

Sydney United Colts v NSWIS 3
(Already played)

LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Haggard	Marconi	21
Kevo Gulesserian	AIS	20
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	20
Daniel Kukucka	Sydney United	16



ARGON VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Tel: 02 9671 5566

Mobile: 0411 404 776

We specialising in: ♦ Weddings ♦ Engagements
♦ Christenings ♦ All Functions

SPECIAL PRICES FOR SOCCERI

Plus Super Prices for Sunday Weddings

PWFC PRESTIGE WEDDING & FUNCTION CENTRE

Excellent in Style & Elegance

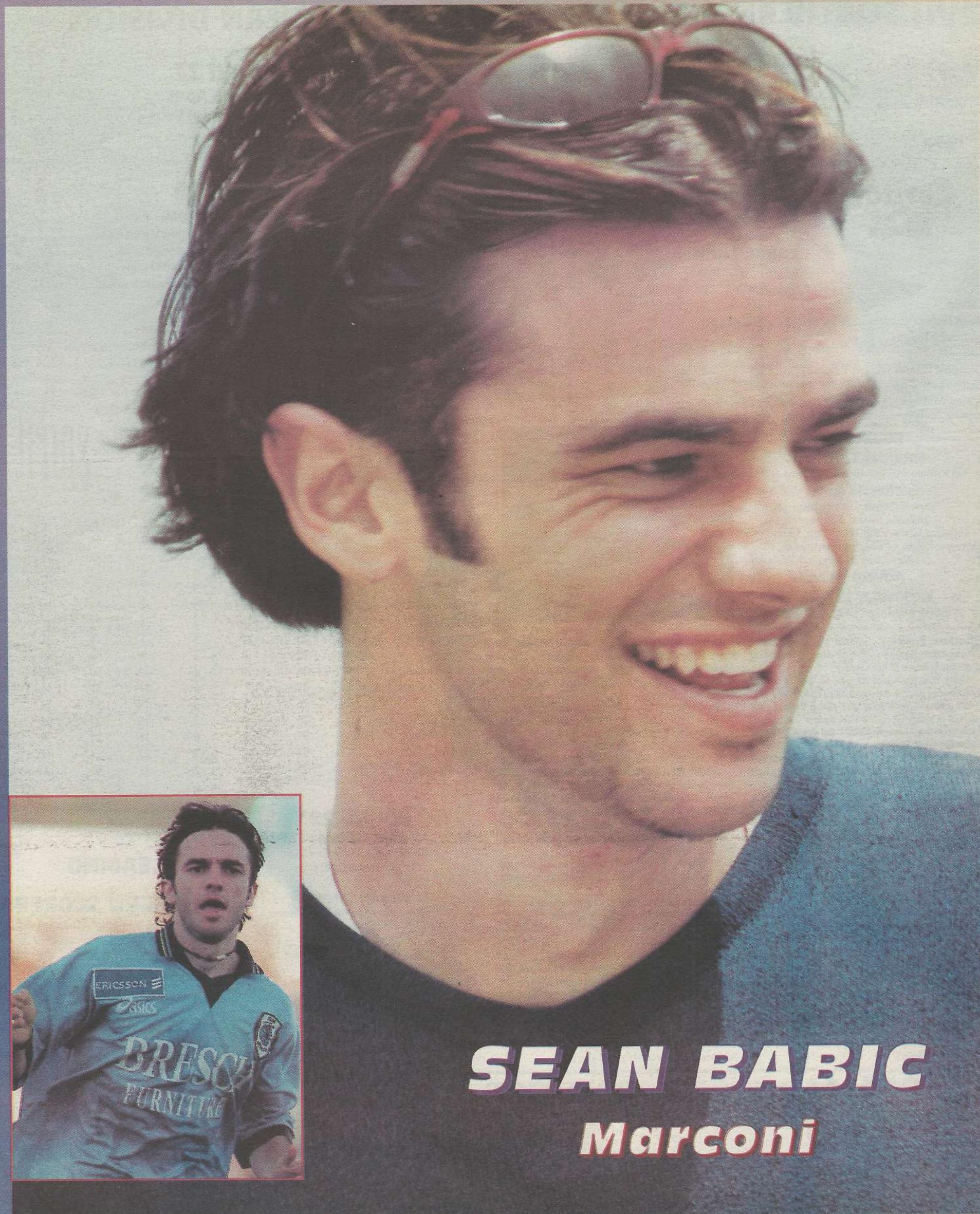
Our 30 years experience will guarantee you an unforgettable evening!

☎ (02) 9553 1155

20 BELGRAVE ST, KOGARAH NSW 2217

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCER WEEKLY

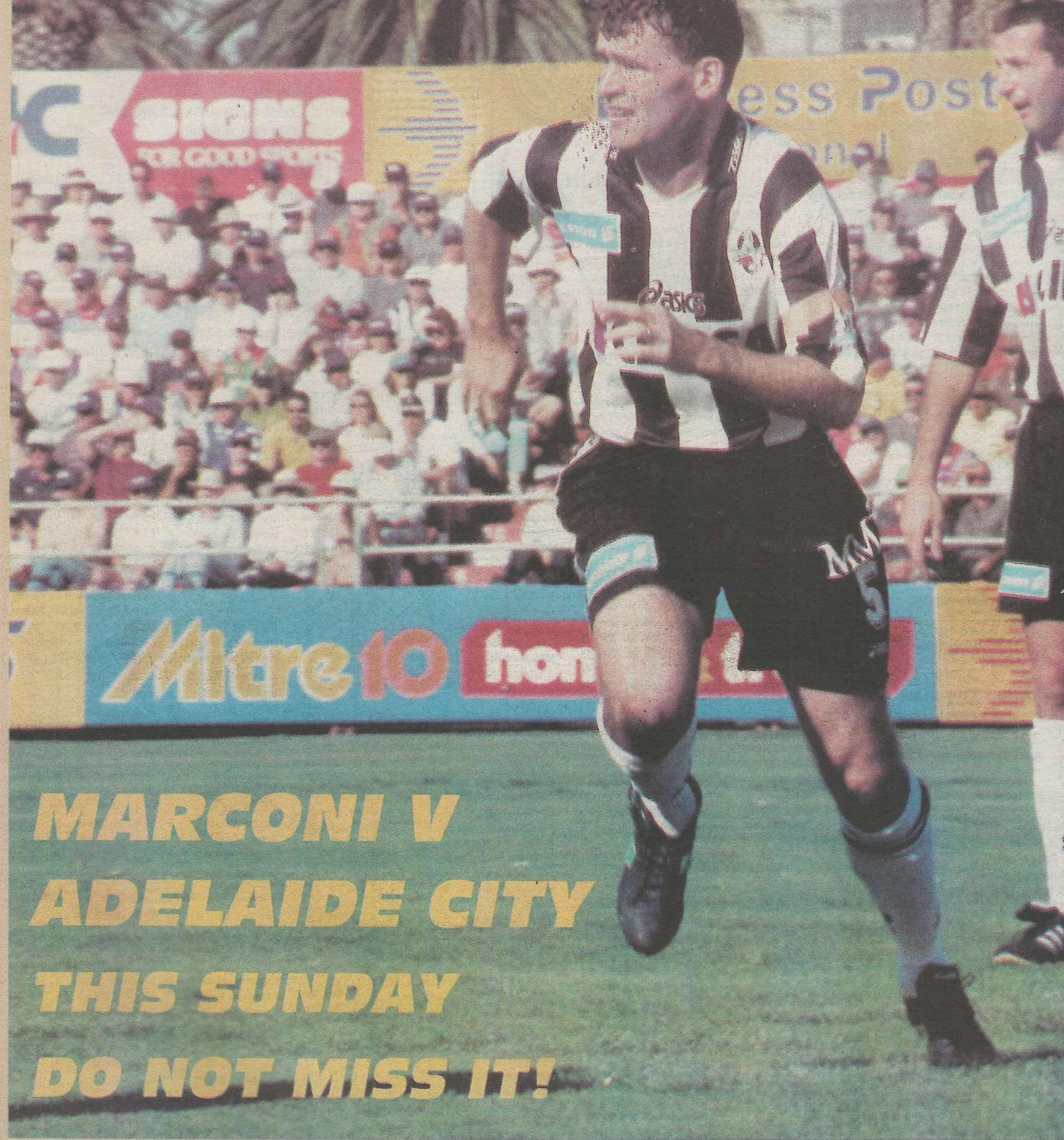


SEAN BABIC
Marconi

ALL PICS OF SEAN BABIC BY MELBIN

ALEX TOBIN

Adelaide city



PIC BY SPORTSWEST MEDIA

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

DEMONS LEAD THE PACK

Round 11 marked the halfway point of the NSW Soccer Federation's Super League championship, and after the weekend's games three teams are locked at the top on 22 points.

Blacktown City Demons, last season's Grand Final winners, took another three points in their home clash with the Parramatta Eagles.

Two in five minutes did it for the Demons, with goals after 38 minutes for Jason Bennett and a 43rd minute Jon Angelucci



Ex-Socceroo Joe Watson's Fairfield Bulls

penalty. With better finishing though the Eagles may have snatched something from the game.

Bonnyrigg continued their fine form of late with a 3-1 victory over Canterbury Marrickville. Super League leading scorer Colin Luff made it nine for the season with a goal in the 81st minute for Bonnyrigg, by which time fellow striker Robert Gomez had already scored twice, after 14 minutes and a penalty ten minutes before half time. Canterbury Marrickville's goal came on the hour mark through Nick Boszki.

The third team at the top is Macarthur Rams, who put aside a home defeat by Canterbury Marrickville over Easter to one side by defeating Sutherland Sharks 2-0. Goals from Trevor Whiddett and Iain McDonald did the trick for the Rams.

Previous league leaders Fairfield Bulls suffered a shock loss to Leichhardt Tigers, their first home reversal of the year. Despite another goal for Marc Hoenselaars, it was a poor night for the Bulls as they also had Paul Bourke sent off.

It was a different story for the Tigers however, who put some inconsistent form behind them with goals from Sarkis Boudaher, Mite Talcevski and Chris Lansdown.

Two goals from Aydin Cetinay gave Ryde City Gunners a shock three points at Jensen Park.

Cetinay's goals, after 74 and 86 minutes, enabled Ryde to move two points clear of the Sutherland Sharks and into ninth spot, and left Bankstown sitting in mid-table. To add to Bankstown's woes, Nabil Codmani was sent off for two booked offences just after Cetinay's first goal.

At the bottom of the table the battle of the bottom two went the way of Eastern Suburbs.

Central Coast's wretched run continued as the Wanderers scored after 34 minutes through the versatile Stevie Lawrence, and Mark Belham sealed the victory for Eastern Suburbs with just nine minutes left.

FIRST DIVISION

The southern derby between Hurstville City and St George at Hurstville Oval was marred by three sendings off, including two from St George, who were beaten 4-2, the local 'Minotaurs' aided by a hat trick from Michael Kladi.

Manly recovered from being 2-0 down to score two themselves in the last five minutes and preserve their unbeaten record with the 2-2 draw at Illawarra Lions. Auburn continued their recent improvement by winning 4-2 at Moorebank, Huseyin Beyhan again among the goals (a hat-trick).

Dulwich Hill lost their leading scorer Zlatko Momircevski to a red card only 30 minutes into their game against a youthful AC United at Arlington Oval.

Instead, the ten men succumbed to a simple far post header by AC substitute Marcello Ortiz, who was left unmarked to find the top left corner from a lofted cross by Nino Marullo out on the right touchline in the 87th minute.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

TWELVE



Saturday 17 April

Central Coast v Macarthur Rams
Plum Park, 6:00pm

Sunday 18 April

Sutherland Sharks v Canterbury Marrickville

Seymour Shaw Field, 3:00pm

Parramatta Eagles v Leichhardt Tigers

Melita Stadium, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Blacktown City Demons

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Fairfield Bulls v Ryde City

Nineveh Field, 3:00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Jensen Park, 3:00pm

Proudly sponsored by PEPSI
NSW SOCCER FEDERATION INFORMATION SERVICE
19009 22885

(75c per min - IDS. Higher rates apply from mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE

	Blacktown	.....	2	Parramatta	.....	0
Bankstown	0	Ryde City	.....	2	
Eastern Suburbs	2	Central Coast	.....	0	
Bonnyrigg	3	Canterbury	.....	1	

FIRST DIVISION

	Rockdale	.....	1	Penrith	.....	3
Dulwich Hill	0	A C United	.....	1	
Illawarra Lions	2	Manly Warringah	.....	2	
Moorebank	2	Auburn	.....	4	
Hurstville	4	St George	.....	2	

SECOND DIVISION

	Fraser Park	.....	3	Ancliffe	.....	1
Mt Druitt	1	Uni of NSW	.....	0	
Hajduk W	9	Sydney District	.....	0	

*Hills v Greystanes washed out

ROUND 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Black. City Demons	10	7	1	2	20	9	11	22
Bonnyrigg W. Eagles	11	7	1	3	29	19	10	22
Macarthur Rams	10	7	1	2	19	10	9	22
Fairfield Bulls	10	6	2	2	21	15	6	20
Leichhardt Tigers	11	5	2	4	20	19	1	17
Bank. City Lions	11	5	1	5	25	20	5	16
Cbury M'velle	11	4	3	4	17	15	2	15
Parramatta Eagles	10	4	1	5	16	11	5	13
Ryde City	11	2	4	5	13	16	-3	10
Sutherland Sharks	11	2	2	7	12	30	-18	8
Eastern Suburbs	10	2	1	7	13	26	-13	7
Central Coast	10	2	1	7	9	24	-15	7

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 7

	G/13	G/14	G/15	G/16
L'hadt Tigers v Central Coast	5-0	4-2	1-2	0-2
Gl'veille Hornsby v N'castle Break	0-2	4-0	1-0	2-1
P'matta Eagles v Southern Dist	6-1	1-6	0-1	5-0
Sydney Utd v Macarthur Rams	0-3	1-1	3-0	2-3

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
Illawarra Lions	24	15	4	5	71	28	43	49
Ryde City	24	16	1	7	49	23	26	49
Blacktown Assoc	24	14	4	6	52	23	29	46
AC United	20	13	5	2	62	24	38	44
Bankstown Assoc	20	12	2	6	39	20	19	38
Penrith Panthers	20	10	4	6	45	23	22	34
Hills United	20	9	5	6	40	25	15	32
St George	20	10	2	8	44	30	14	32
Bonnyrigg WE	12	6	3	3	22	13	9	21
Stanmore Hawks	20	6	1	13	27	47	-20	19
Fairfield Bulls	22	4	4	14	18	78	-60	16
Rockdale City Suns	18	3	4	11	14	35	-21	13
Canterbury Assoc	20	3	2	15	21	41	-20	11
Canterbury M'ville	20	0	1	19	10	104	-94	1

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Hajduk Wanderers	12	9	2	1	35	14	21	29

GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts

<tbl_r cells="9" ix="5" maxcspan="1" maxr

QUEENSLAND

CONQUEST: AN INSIDE AND OUT SUCCESS!



PREMIER FOOTBALL

Ipswich Knights midfielder Damien Conquest is an exception to an unwritten rule. The worlds of indoor and outdoor soccer are light years apart. Despite growing from the same roots, the two sports have branched out in different directions.

Conquest is one of the few players who manages, or chooses, to excel at both. An Australian Futsal representative, he has just returned from a tour of Portugal with the national side.

In the outdoor game, Conquest is one of the Premier League's burgeoning stars. His skill is the equal of any player in the league, with that rare ability to beat an opposition player with speed or guile.

He was voted last year's Premier League Rookie of the Year after a scintillating first year with the Knights where he blossomed under the coaching of Mike Mulvey.

This year has started slowly for the second-year player after he returned from Portugal and picked up an ankle injury in his first training session with the Knights.

Conquest made his return from the bench but started at the weekend against Lions and played a leading hand as the Knights upset the competition leaders!

BRISBANE CITY	- Spencer Park, Newmarket
BRISBANE LIONS	- Lions Stadium, Richlands
BUNDABERG WAVES	- Thabeban Sports Complex, Bundaberg
GOLD COAST CITY	- Southport SC, Ashmore
IPSWICH KNIGHTS	- Eric Evans Reserve, Bundamba
Mt Gravatt	- Dittmer Park, Mt Gravatt
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	- Underwood Park, Rochedale
TARINGA ROVERS	- Jack Speare Park, Indooroopilly
TOOWOOMBA RAIDERS	- Gold Park, Toowoomba
WYNNUM	- Carmichael Park, Tingalpa

He came in for some extra treatment from his experienced opposition and didn't shirk the task, with his ankle coming through its toughest test yet.

The second-year syndrome has been the curse of many outstanding young players. But the 21-year old Conquest has a simple plan to beat the plague that has haunted others in his situation.

"I am just working hard," Conquest said. "The injury didn't help. It put me back a couple of weeks."

"I played my first full game (at the weekend) so I am starting to get back."

Fortunately, he is able to mix his indoor and outdoor commitments at the moment, with the two sports rarely clashing.

His achievements in indoor give that sport an edge if he was forced to make a choice. But that's something Conquest is intent on fixing, with the attacking midfielder keen to reach higher honours with the Knights this year.

"If I play a bit better I might make the Queensland team," Conquest said.

"But it is going to be hard."

"If it happens, it happens. I am just playing on and trying to get recognised."

He has already tasted the life of a professional footballer, spending a six month stint in Brazil playing futsal.

Conquest enjoyed the experience and it whetted his appetite. Full time professionalism was a novel experience and he reaped the benefits.

"I came back and I was really fit and my skills were a bit better from playing every day," Conquest said.

"I prefer indoor at the moment because I am getting a bit further. But if the chance came in outdoor I would take that."

Another season like the last from the gifted attacker and that chance may not be too far away.

Brisbane City topped arch rivals Brisbane Lions from their perch at the top of the Queensland premier league for the first time this season in an enthralling 2-1 away win at Lions Stadium on Sunday evening, reports Glenn Davis.

In a must win match for Brisbane City, the former national league club had to survive a tense final 15 minutes after experienced midfielder Shane Haddow was sent off for his second bookable offence.

Haddow, who was one of City's standout players, got his marching orders after a deliberate body charge on Lions' striker Greg Di Losa who had burst down the left flank in one of his typical surging runs.

Despite playing against only 10 men Lions failed to capitalise and was unable to break down the City defence who clung desperately to their lead.

City easily dominated the match and were worthy winners after holding onto a 2-1 lead at half time following goals from Wayne Strange and Nathan Carlos.

However, Lions should have been up 1-nil after only seven minutes when striker Warren Allen missed a sitter only a metre off the City goal-line following a cutback from Di Losa.

City, who looked to be more motivated than in previous weeks, opened the scoring in the 32nd minute when Strange volleyed through a congested penalty box from 18 metres.

Carlos, who worked tirelessly, put the visitors ahead 2-nil just two minutes later, striking a volley over the head of Lions keeper Jason Lucas from a similar range.

Lions, who like City, have been in a mini-form slump following two draws and a loss from their previous three matches, pegged back City's lead a minute before the interval.

Veteran Frank Mengotti showed all his skill to turn the City defence on the edge of the box before slotting his shot past keeper Ben Appledorn.

Both sides had their share of opportunities early after the break, with the best effort coming from Lions' midfielder Steve Starr whose goalbound shot from 30 metres was brilliantly tipped over the crossbar in a diving save from Appledorn.

Lions had another chance four minutes later when diminutive midfielder Darren Hillier attempted a diving header but was just out of the reach of an Allen cross in front of an open goal.

After Haddow's dismissal, City pulled men back in defence for the final 15 minutes allowing Lions to surge forward.

However, City's tactics to deny Lions space in their attacking third proved successful and almost caught the homeside on the break when substitute Scott Elliott beat the offside trap before snapping his shot just wide of the upright with Lucas beaten.

Lions' defeat has enabled Taringa Rovers to join them as premiership leaders with Taringa ahead on goal differences following their 1-nil away win over Rochedale Rovers on Friday night.

Taringa, the competition's form side at the moment, bagged the three points when former Strikers midfielder Andrew Packer slotted home in a counter attack in the 75th minute.

Taringa coach John Ogden, who rated Shaun Molenda as his side's best, was relieved his young guns came away with such a valuable three points.

"We expected a close game and that's what we got," Ogden said.

"Rochedale were coming off two losses and we knew we were in for a tough time."

"But this win has given us a lot of confidence and we're not afraid of anyone in the league anymore."

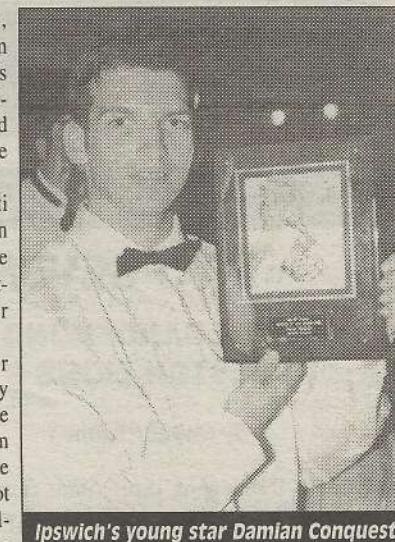
Ogden, who was not getting carried away with his side's position on the table, believes Taringa are playing to 60 per cent of their ability.

"They're all working for each other but only to about 60 per cent of what we can do," Ogden said.

Ogden, whose club's policy has always been on youth, blooded another teenage youngster in 15-year-old Brendan Lewendowski who came off the bench in the final 15 minutes.

In other matches Bundaberg continued to cause surprises in the league thumping Toowoomba 4-nil at home while Wynnum downed the inconsistent Mt Gravatt 4-2.

Gold Coast's home match against Ipswich Knights was postponed after a weekend of rain.



Ipswich's young star Damian Conquest with his Rookie of the Year award.

RESULTS, TABLES AND THIS WEEK'S ROUND IN QLD

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	L	D	L	G	A	Diff	Pts
Taringa Rovers	9	5	2	2	16	7	9	17
Brisbane Lions	9	5	2	2	20	15	5	17
Rochedale Rov	9	5	0	4	23	14	9	15
Brisbane City	8	5	0	3	15	12	3	15
B'Berg Waves	9	4	2	3	15	12	3	14
IPSW Knights	8	4	0	4	12	11	1	12
Gold Coast	8	2	4	2	13	18	-5	10
Wynnum	9	3	1	5	14	20	-6	10
Mt Gravatt	8	2	2	4	15	20	-5	8
Toowoomba Utd	9	1	1	7	7	21	-14	4

ROUND 9 SCORES

Gold Coast	0	IPSW Knights	0
Brisbane Lions	1	Brisbane City	2
B'Berg Waves	4	Toowoomba Utd	0
Wynnum	4	Mt Gravatt	2
Rochedale Rov	0	Taringa Rovers	1

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	G	A	Diff	Pts
Rocklea Utd	6	6	0	0	32	10	22	18
Capalaba	6	5	0	1	14	5	9	15
Beenleigh	8	3	2	3	16	20	-4	11
Slacks Creek	8	3	2	3	16	21	-5	11
Souths Utd	7	3	1	3	16	8	8	10
Inala City	8	3	1	4	16	24	-8	10
Olympic Utd	7	2	0	5	13	16	-3	6
Redlands Utd	7	1	3	3	10	19	-9	6
Acacia Ridge	7	0	3	4	8	18	-10	3

ROUND 9 SCORES

Redlands Utd	1	Slacks Creek	1
Inala City	3	Olympic Utd	2
Acacia Ridge	3	Beenleigh	3
Bye	0	Capalaba	0
Rocklea Utd	?	Souths Utd	?

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	G	A	Diff	Pts
North Star	8	6	0	2	24	12	12	18
Albany Creek	8	5	2	1	19	12	7	17
Eastern Subs	8	4	3	1	10	6	4	15
Newmarket	8	4	1	3	16	13	3	13
Uni Of Qld	8	4	1	3	15	15	0	13
Pine Rivers Utd	8	3	2	3	11	10	1	11
Grange Thistle	8	1	3	4	10	17	-7	6
Mitchelton	7	1	1	5	8	16	-8	4
The Gap	7	0	1	6	15	27	-12	1

ROUND 9 SCORES

Albany Creek	2	Grange Thistle	2

<tbl_r cells="4

eat well live well PREMIER LEAGUE



GOALARAMA!

TWO SEVEN GOAL THRILLERS

**SOUTH DANDELONG 4
PRESTON LIONS 3**

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Dandenong three times came from behind to post a sensational 4-3 win over Preston Lions at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday.

The loss dents Preston's championship ambitions, but lifts South Dandenong back out of the relegation zone.

Preston drew first blood in an end-to-end game of many chances. Referee Senko Rastocic awarded the first of three penalties in the 9th minute to the Lions after defender Craig Moodie hauled down Kamer Simsek inside the box.

Preston skipper Chris Emsovski had no trouble dispatching the spot-kick.

Just four minutes later, the home side were level. Viktor Memeti made a forceful run along the by-line before cutting the ball back perfectly for Idriz Pelja to slot into the corner.

Pelja was denied a minute later by a tight offside ruling after he had been released by Reshat Mezensof.

Tony Talevski hit the bar soon after with South Dandy keeper Chris Roche well beaten.

Preston were back in front after 27 minutes, Sasa Ognenovski found Simsek on the edge of the 6 yard box and the Lions striker completed the move with a lifted shot that went in off an upright.

Talevski was denied again by the woodwork in the 34th minute when his header from a Josip Kozic cross crashed off the underside of the crossbar.

Shortly before half time, South Dandy earned themselves a equaliser from the penalty spot.

Pelja's pass intended for Mezensof struck the arm of Ognenovski and Mezensof duly converted the kick.

Ten minutes into the second half, Preston were in front for a third time when giant defender Ognenovski headed in Emsovski's corner with Roche stranded.

The South Dandenong fightback continued when they were awarded another penalty in the 66th minute.

For most of the game, Preston's offside trap had worked well, but on this occasion, Carlo Villani sprung it and was brought down in the area by keeper Luce Acevski.

For the second time in the match, Mezensof calmly beat Acevski from the spot.

South Dandenong, roared on by a vociferous home crowd, scored what proved to be the winner in the 71st minute.

A crucial mistake by Emsovski allowed Pelja to rob him of the ball and send Villani through to slide the ball past Acevski.

South: Roche, Moodie (Lumanovski), Tarevski (M.Memeti), Runje, Gurpinar, Kirichian (Rasimi), V.Memeti, Pelja, Van Egmond, Villani, Mezensof.

Lions: Acevski, Slaveski (Stojcevski), Kovacic, Ognenovski, Kozic, Simsek, Ujgunovski (Burlak), Filipovski, Spink, Emsovski (Lisolaski), Talevski.

Referee: Senko Rastocic

Votes: 3- V.Memeti (SD), 2- Ognenovski (PL), 1- Villani (SD)



**MELB RAIDERS 4
SUNSHINE GEORGIES 3**

By George Koukeris

Melbourne Raiders scored a last minute goal through Nick Cuculeski to notch an incredible 4-3 win over Sunshine Georgies on Sunday night.

The Raiders had been 2-3 down with four minutes to go but two late strikes by Cuculeski earned them the points.

Sunshine defender John Tambouras received a heavy knock to the head in the 14th minute, but after treatment, was able to continue.

After that, the Georgies were the more aggressive side.

Raiders keeper Mauro Raponi was kept busy by the likes of Vince De La Plaza and Cesar Hermosilla, but managed to keep his goal intact at the half time break.

The Raiders slowly got into the game in the final ten minutes leading up to half time.

Former Olyroo George Slifkas was terrific in midfield as was George Jolevski, but despite coming close through David Iacovitti and Tony Lingurovski, the Raiders couldn't find a goal.

That was until stoppage time when a one-two by Slifkas and Iacovitti allowed Jolevski to find some space just inside the area to thump home the opening goal of the evening.

Iacovitti made it 2-0 in the 55th minute when he headed in Cuculeski's cross.

Three Georgies goal in 13 minutes soon had the Raiders behind though.

Their amazing comeback was started by Alfonso Opazo, who lashed in a shot from just outside the area.

In the 68th minute, Sunshine were on level terms when Joe Debono headed in Hermosilla's far post corner.

In the 76th minute, the Georgies won a dubious penalty when Mark Recchia was brought down by Anthony Boschini. Opazo stepped up to give the Georgies a lead that seemed impossible around 20 minutes earlier.

But the Raiders hit back and Cuculeski equalised with four minutes left when he took advantage of a Steve Wardle fumble.

There was more heroics from Cuculeski to come. Right on the bell he took on Jolevski's through ball and beat Wardle to seal a memorable victory.

Raiders: Raponi, Boschini, Anastasiou, Iacovitti, Kitanovski, Angelovski, Jolevski, Gasparini, Slifkas (Salievski), Lingurovski (Nedanovski), Cuculeski.

Georgies: Wardle, Krajacic, Bot, Debono, Tambouras (Stojanovski), Kanesoulis, Allain, Recchia, Opazo, De La Plaza, Hermosilla.

Referee: Mario Gurrisi

Votes: 3- Cuculeski (MR), 2- Jolevski (MR), 1- Recchia (SG)



HARRY'S THE MAN!

**ST ALBANS SAINTS 4
ALTONA MAGIC 2**

By Ivan Perkov

A hat-trick by Hrvoje 'Harry' Karl and a solid team performance gave St Albans Saints an Easter Monday worth celebrating.

The 4-2 win against an in form Altona Magic provided Vid Horvat with his first win as St Albans coach.

Both teams started slowly and just when you thought it might turn into a game of few chances; a slip by an Altona defender allowed the Saints influential striker, Karl, to rush in toward the touch line, cut in and blast a shot into the net, all from an acute angle.

That goal seemed to spark the away side into attack, as John Sapazovski and Zoran Todorovski both came close on several occasions. It was in the 28th minute that Altona equalised when good work by Henry Velkovski allowed Sapazovski to back-heal and beat Marijan Vunderl with a cross-shot.

After their goal, Altona looked better and when Tom Markovski unleashed a 30 metre bolt of lightning shot in the 44th minute, St Albans looked dead and buried.

To their credit, the Saints forged forward and earned a penalty, right on the 45th minute, when Ivan Razov was fouled just inside the area. Up stepped Karl who scored his second of the game, Darren McGrath got his hands to it but could not palm the shot away.

The second 45 minutes was not as exciting as the first, but both the Saints and Magic had chances to take the lead. This honour was left to the Saints.

After several clever substitutions by Horvat, the St Albans midfield began running the gamut. In the 82nd, a half cleared long ball allowed Damian Vojtek to put the home side in front. The left foot low shot was his first goal for the club.

Toward the end of the game, Altona went in search

of a draw, pushing men forward they were left exposed several times. In the 87th minute, Karl received the ball just over the half-way line, ran toward the goal, nutmegged a defender and then easily placed the ball past McGrath.

The win gave coach Horvat a confidence boost who had this to say: "They (Altona) are one of the best teams in the league, but our team worked hard and we deserved this win."

Saints: Vunderl, Rasputic, Colina, Dragicevic (Vidakovic), Karl, K.Razov, Mikulic, Stanidis (Kelic), Vojtek, Saric (Movric), I.Razov.

Magic: McGrath, Tasevski, Ristevski, Micevski, T.Markovski, Vasilevski (S.Markovski), Trajceski, Todorovski, Sapazovski, Velkovski, Trifunov.

Referee: Perry Mur

Votes: 3- Karl (StA), 2- Trajceski (AM), 1- K.Razov (StA)

A Iso on Easter Monday, Port Melbourne Sharks continued their unbeaten start to the Premier League season with a hard fought 2-1 win over Altona East at Paisley Park.

Nick Tsaltas and John Paul Knezevic were the scorers for the Sharks whilst George Angelos hit the target for the Phoenix.

Bentleigh Greens came from 0-2 down at Kingston Heath Reserve to draw the match against Bulleen Inter Kings 2-2.

Goals from Danny Gnjidic and Vlad Babic gave the Kings a commanding 2-0 lead but strikes from Predrag Mladenovic and Stelios Drakos earned a point for the Greens.

In the other match, Fawkner Blues recorded their second straight win against a struggling Westvale outfit.

Westvale remain rock bottom on the Premier League table with just one win to their credit so far.

Fawkner's scorers were Peter Psarros and evergreen Josip Biskic while Westvale's goal also came from a Fawkner player, courtesy of an OG.

eat well live well

ROUND 10 DETAILS

St Albans Saints 4 (Karl 3, Vojtek) - Altona Magic 2 (Markovski, Sapazovski)

Fawkner Blues 2 (Psarros, Biskic) - Westvale 1 (own goal)

Bentleigh Greens 2 (Mladenovic, Drakos) - Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Gnjidic, Babic)

Altona East 1 (Angelos) - Port Melbourne Sharks 2 (Tsaltas, Knezevic)

South Dandenong 4 (Pelja, Mezensof 2, Villani) -

Preston Lions 3 (Emsovski, Simsek, Ognenovski) -

Melbourne Raiders 4 (Jolevski, Iacovitti, Cuculeski 2) -

Sunshine Georgies 3 (Opazo 2, Debono)

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
10	8	2	0	25	7	26
9	6	2	1	23	13	20
10	6	0	4	22	13	18
10	5	2	3	15	14	17
10	3	5	2	18	13	14
10	3	5	2	15	11	14
10	4	1	5	17	26	13
10	3	3	4	17	18	12
10	3	2	5	14	15	11
10	3	2	5	13	18	11
10	3	2	5	11	17	11
9	2	3	4	12	12	9
10	2	2	6	12	23	8
10	1	3	6	11	25	6

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Saturday April 17

Altona Magic v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 7pm at Paisley Park

Sunday April 18

Port Melbourne Sharks v Preston Lions - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve

Springvale White Eagles v Fawkner Blues - kick off 3pm at Serbian Sports Centre

Sunshine Georgies v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Chaplin Reserve

St Albans Saints v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Churchill Reserve

Monday April 19

Bulleen Inter Kings v Altona East - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club

Westvale v Bentleigh Greens - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve



VICTORIAN LEAGUES



CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 ROUND 3

Northcote City	1	Western Suburbs	2				
Lalor United	2	Westgate	0				
Oakleigh	0	Yarraville Glory	2				
Springvale City	1	Heidelberg United	3				
Melbourne City	2	Doncaster Rovers	1				
Nth Geelong Warriors	2	Werribee City	1				
Richmond	2	Kingston City	3				
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Lalor United	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Heidelberg United	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Nth Geelong Warriors	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Westgate	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Oakleigh	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Melbourne City	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Springvale City	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Western Suburbs	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Richmond	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Kingston City	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Yarraville Glory	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Northcote City	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
Doncaster Rovers	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Werribee City	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

ROUND 4 FIXTURE

Saturday April 17

Yarraville Glory v Richmond

Sunday April 18

Werribee City v Oakleigh

Westgate v North Geelong Warriors

Doncaster Rovers v Lalor United

Kingston City v Springvale City

Western Suburbs v Melbourne City

Monday April 19

Heidelberg United v Northcote City (kick off 8.30pm)

DIVISION 2 ROUND 3

East Richmond	1	Geelong	1				
Satellite City Rovers	1	Croydon City Arrows	0				
Essendon	5	Frankston Strikers	0				
Frankston Pines	6	Altona City	0				
Thomastown/Regent	2	Diamond Valley Utd	0				
Knox City	1	Cranbourne Comets	2				
Ringwood City	1	Old Scotch Waverley	2				
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Essendon	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Frankston Pines	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
Geelong	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Thomastown/Regent	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Knox City	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Old Scotch Waverley	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Cranbourne Comets	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
East Richmond	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Satellite City Rovers	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Frankston Strikers	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Altona City	3	0	1	2	0	7	1
Croydon City Arrows	3	0	0	3	0	5	0
Diamond Valley United	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Ringwood City	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Friday April 16

Geelong v Essendon (kick off 8.30pm)

Saturday April 17

Cranbourne Comets v Ringwood City

Diamond Valley United v Knox City

Altona City v Thomastown/Regent

Frankston Strikers v Frankston Pines

Old Scotch Waverley v Satellite City Rovers

Croydon City Arrows v East Richmond

DIVISION 3 ROUND 2

(PLAYED EASTER MONDAY)

Fitzroy City	4	Broadmeadows City	4
ROUND 3			
Laverton Park	1	Stonnington City	2
Banyule City	1	Moreland City	3
North Coburg United	0	South Springvale	0
Mooroolbark	0	Williamstown	3
Bell Park	0	South Wantirna	2
Broadmeadows City	0	Keilor Park	1
Fitzroy City	1	Pascoe Vale	1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Williamstown	3	2	1	0	9	5	7
Moreland City	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Fitzroy City	3	1	2	0	8	6	5
North Coburg United	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
South Springvale	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Broadmeadows City	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
South Wantirna	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Mooroolbark	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Bell Park	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Keilor Park	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Laverton Park	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Pascoe Vale	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Banyule City	3	0	0	3	5	9	0

ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Saturday April 17

Keilor Park v Fitzroy City

South Wantirna v Broadmeadows City

Bell Park v Williamstown

South Springvale v Mooroolbark

Pascoe Vale v Laverton Park

Moreland City v North Coburg United

Stonnington City v Banyule City

DIVISION 4 ROUND 1

(PLAYED EASTER MONDAY)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keysborough	6	Lalor	1				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	3	3	0	0	12	3	9
Keysborough	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
Lalor	3	2	0	1	10	9	6
Seaford United	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Croxton Park	3	1	2	0	9	7	5
Lyndale United	3	1	2	0	7	6	5
Sandringham City	3	1	1	1	9	8	4
Melton	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Geelong Rangers	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Sunbury United	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Nunawading City	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Chelsea	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Clifton Hill United	3	0	1	2	5	9	1
Corio	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

ROUND 4 FIXTURES

Saturday April 17

Melton v Corio

Nunawading City v Keysborough

Sandringham City v Geelong Rangers

Seaford United v Langwarrin

Lalor v Sunbury United

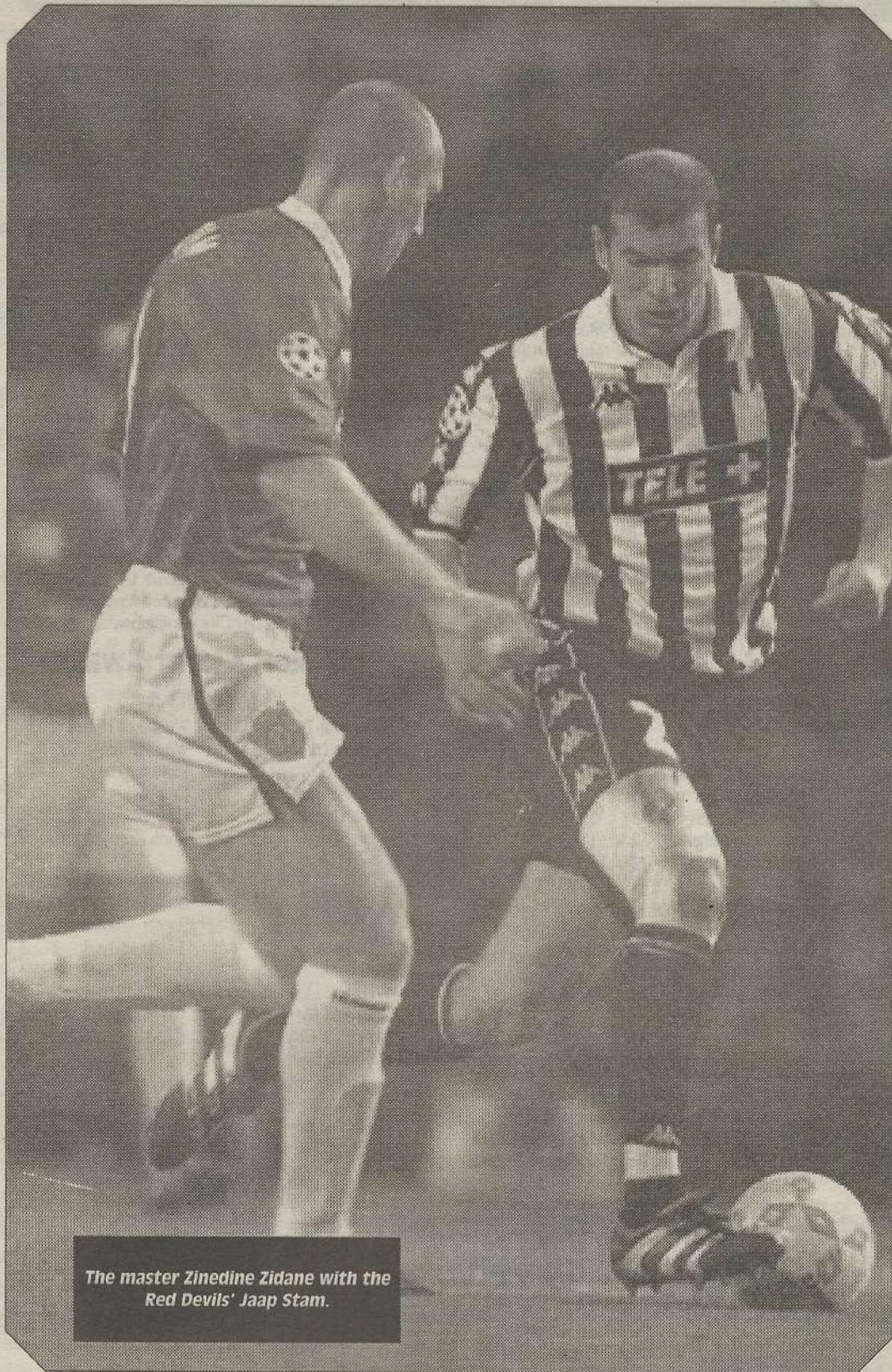
Lyndale United v Chelsea

Clifton Hill United v Croxton Park

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts

<tbl_r cells="8" ix="3" maxcspan="

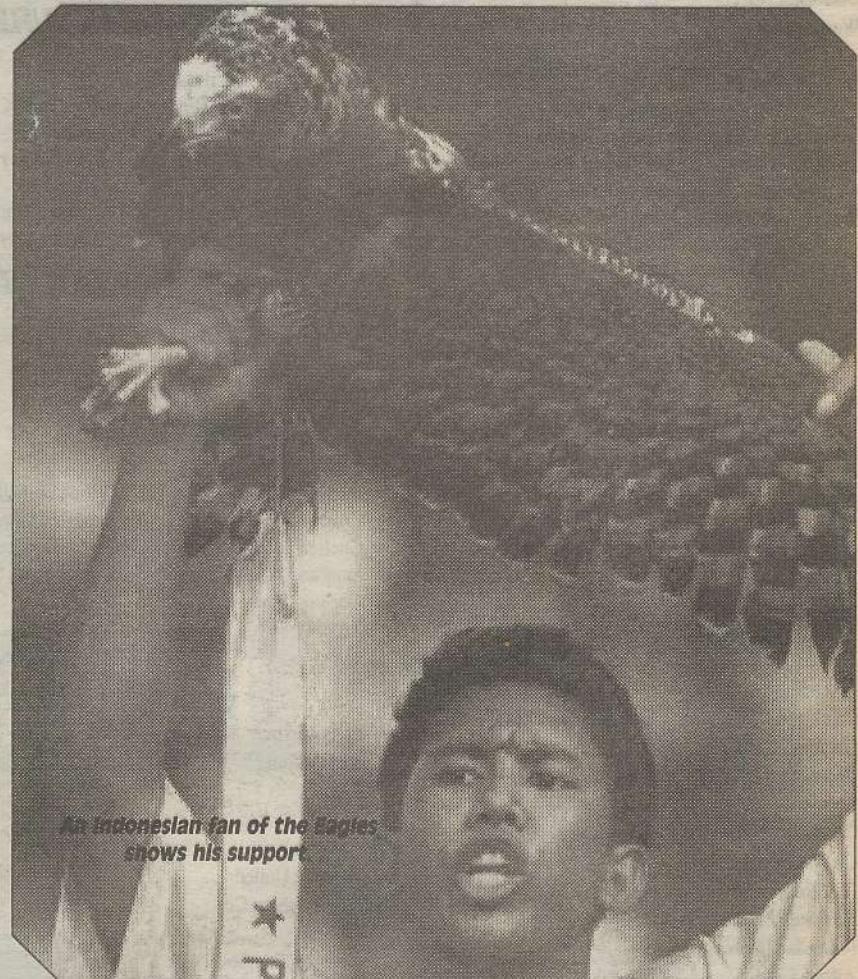
THE GLOBAL GAME PAGES ARE SPONSORED BY THE FOUR
DIEGOS RADIO SHOW AND COAST FM SOCCER IN ADELAIDE



The master Zinedine Zidane with the Red Devils' Jaap Stam.



Bayern's Kuffour (left) against Shervenko of Dynamo Kiev in the 3-3 draw in the Champions League.



An Indonesian fan of the Eagles shows his support.



Simeonechov celebrates Ryan Giggs' late equaliser in the Champions League.



Battiston after scoring in the recent 1-1 friendly against Holland.

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF GROUP GAMES ...

Nigeria 1 Paraguay 2

Three goals, two missed penalties were the hallmarks of a rather spectacular game with fluctuating fortunes. Group favourites Nigeria were given no time at all to get into the match as their defence could never control Paraguay's Santa Cruz.

The tall centre forward first hit the post with Fernandez scoring the first goal, then another splendid run resulted in a free-kick and the 2-0.

When Nigeria's captain Afolabi missed a penalty, the hosts seemed to lose composure but Shittu pulled one goal back before the break.

The inefficient Nigerians largely dominated the second half but Paraguay held on for the three points.

Ghana 3 Kazakhstan 0

Very moderate, slow first half with a slightly superior Ghana. Nevertheless, they weren't able to impose the desired pressure in spite of playing with three strikers.

As usual, their technique is excellent but their finishing is very poor.



The lack of international experience and technical ability is evident in the players of Kazakhstan. Ghana accelerated their rhythm in the second half scoring two fine goals in two minutes.

Ghana continued to dominate the half but failed to secure the higher goal count that would have placed the team atop Group B.

Costa Rica 2 Germany 1

In a bitterly contested encounter, Germany looked fully in control of the game but a certain carelessness helped Costa Rica build up their game and go one up. Germany replied immediately and prevailed for most of the second half.

In an increasingly ill-tempered match, however, the Ticos created better chances and Santan's break-away in the 69th minute sealed the game.

Costa Rica have defeated Germany in their 2nd head-to-head played in WYC final phases. Both matches ended with the same score, 2-1. The previous match was played on 17 June 1995 in Doha (QAT).

Andreas Voss is the 3rd German player sent off during a WYC final phase match. Voss has been preceded by Marcel Rath (Cameroon-Germany 1-1, played in Doha on 14 April 1995) and Sven Fischer, who received a red card in the previous head-to-head between Costa Rica and Germany.

For the 3rd time in a row, Germany failed to qualify to the 2nd round in WYC finals.



Croatia 0 Argentina 0



Very even game with Argentina pressing a little bit more. Cautious build up on both sides. One could really feel how decisive this match was for qualifying for the next round.

After 30 minutes, the game became more exciting and both teams had some good attacking moves. Croatia was strong defensively but their offensive game was a mere shadow of their previous two games.

After the break, Argentina went in search of the victory but the match dropped in intensity around the 75th minute. It seems a draw would suit both teams.



Mexico 1 Saudi Arabia 1

With Mexico already secure in the Second Round, and the Saudis with no chance to advance, there was little pressure on both teams.

This might explain the relaxed attitude by Mexico, which took the lead on a brilliant solo

by Gonzales.

The Saudis had better chances and deserved the equaliser 8 minutes before the break. In the second half, the Saudis continued to create scoring opportunities but failed to find their mark.

Mexico go into the Second Round undefeated atop Group C.

FACTS AND HISTORY OF WYC

Korea Republic have played only once against an African team in 24 matches of WYC final phases.

On 17 June 1997 in Kuching (MYS), they tied 0-0 with South Africa in a 1st round match.

Uruguay have defeated Portugal in both their previous head-to-heads in WYC finals. On 2 September 1979 in Yokohama (JPN) the South Americans won 1-0 thanks to a goal scored by Ruben Walter Paz in the 94th minute, qualifying to the semi-finals.

On 9 March 1993 in Brisbane (AUS), a double by Fabian O'Neill gave Uruguay their 2nd victory over Portugal as a single goal by Bambo was not enough to help.



Current Marconi stars Kim (left) and Frank Farina played against each other in the WYC in 1983.

USA have played 4 matches against African teams in their seven participations to the WYC final phase (25 matches).

Their record includes 1 win (1-0 against Ivory Coast in 1983), 1 draw (1-1 with Mali in 1989) and 2 defeats (1-2 against Nigeria in 1989 and 0-1 against Ghana in 1997).



NIGERIA 1999

Brazil have played 8 matches against African teams in their 10 previous participations to the WYC final phase.

Only once, in the first world championship, have Brazil failed to win: on 20 June 1977 in Sousse (TUN), Ivory Coast imposed the draw with the score of 1-1 in the 1st round. In the other seven matches,

Brazil scored a total of 20 goals conceding only 2.

PATHWAYS FOR GROUP QUALIFIERS

Combinations	A1 plays against:	B1 plays against:	C1 plays against:	D1 plays against:
ABCD	C3	D3	A3	B3
ABCE	C3	A3	B3	E3
ABC F	C3	A3	B3	F3
ABDE	D3	A3	B3	E3
ABDF	D3	A3	B3	F3
ABEF	E3	A3	B3	F3
ACDE	C3	D3	A3	F3
ACDF	C3	D3	A3	F3
ACEF	C3	A3	F3	E3
ADEF	D3	A3	F3	E3
BCDE	C3	D3	B3	E3
BCDF	C3	D3	B3	F3
BCEF	E3	C3	B3	F3
BDEF	E3	D3	B3	F3
CDEF	C3	D3	F3	E3



Australian Simon Colosimo ... sadly, along with the Young Socceroos, will not be a part of the rest of the Cup.



Compiled by

Soccer Weekly

Proudly sponsored by

RIALTO FURNITURE

ZAMO RED-CARDED, AC MILAN BEAT PARMA

AC Milan recovered from a goal down to defeat Parma 2-1 at the San Siro on Sunday and put the pressure on serie A leaders Lazio.

Substitute Maurizio Ganz scored Milan's winner after captain Paolo Maldini had cancelled out Abel Balbo's brilliant 38th minute opener.

The victory lifted Milan second, a point ahead of Fiorentina, held 2-2 at home by Bari, and just four adrift of Lazio, who play arch rivals AS Roma later.

Juventus needed an 81st minute equaliser from Angelo Di Livio to salvage a 2-2 home draw with Bologna, after surrendering an early lead and squandering a penalty.

Inter Milan returned to Salernitana for the first



Paolo Maldini

time in 50 years and probably wished they had never made the trip, losing 2-0 to the second-from-bottom side and having Chile's Ivan Zamorano sent-off in the last minute for dissent.

Fifth-placed Udinese maintained their hopes of an automatic place in next season's European Cup with a 2-1 victory at Cagliari, courtesy of goals from Dane Martin Jorgensen and Belgian Johan Walem.

"It's best to keep your feet on the ground in football," said Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni after a victory which put Lazio in his side's sights

SERIE B RESULTS

Brescia	2	Treviso	1
Cesena	1	Cremonese	1
Cosenza	3	Ravenna	1
F. Andria	2	Napoli	1
Genoa	3	Chievo	3
Lucchese	2	Atalanta	2
Reggiana	1	Reggina	1
Ternana	2	Pescara	2
Torino	3	Monza	3
Verona	5	Lecce	1

TABLES

Verona	57
Torino	51

Treviso	48
Lecce	46
Brescia	45
Reggina	45
Atalanta	43
Napoli	41
Pescara	41
Ravenna	39
Genoa	35
Monza	34
Chievo	33
F. Andria	31
Cesena	29
Ternana	26
Lucchese	25
Reggiana	23
Cremonese	18

for the first time this year.

For much of the first half, Parma looked like reviving their own title hopes as only goalkeeper Christian Abbiati kept Milan in the match with a string of superb saves from Balbo, Juan Veron and Dino Baggio.

Seven minutes from the break, Balbo made the breakthrough, finally beating Abbiati with a delicate diagonal chip.

Zaccheroni replaced out-of-form German Oliver Bierhoff at the break and Milan were transformed, almost equalising in the 55th when Gianluigi Buffon saved from George Weah.

In the 56th, Luigi Sartori replaced Parma's outstanding French defender Lilian Thuram and, within three minutes, Maldini rose unmarked to head home Zvonimir Boban's freekick.

In the 72nd, substitute Ganz's first shot was parried by Buffon, but the rebound left the striker with an open goal.

Fiorentina looked set for a comfortable victory when Portugal playmaker Rui Costa fired home a diagonal shot in the 41st minute after a fine run and cross from Moreno Torricelli.

With the home side clearly struggling to find the form with which they led serie A for much of the season, Swede Yksel Osmanovski deservedly levelled for Bari in the 65th.

Poor defending let defender Pasquale Padalino restore the home side's lead against the run of play in the 72nd, but Colombian Miguel Guerrero's deflected shot two minutes from time left Fiorentina with four points out of four matches.

"This could be a decisive set-back," admitted manager Giovanni Trapattoni.

When Filippo Inzaghi won a penalty in the 29th minute, 13 minutes after firing Juve into the lead, the reigning champions looked on course for a comfortable home win over Bologna.

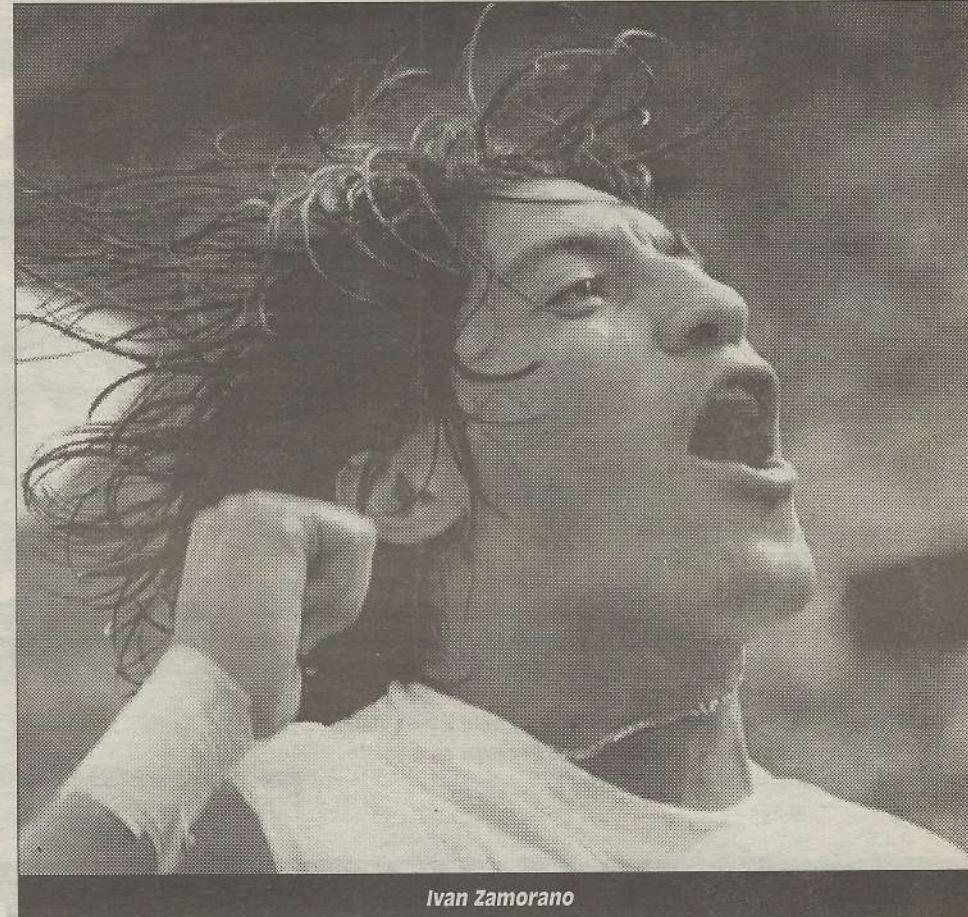
But Francesco Antonioli saved Inzaghi's spot kick and, on either side of halftime, Russian Igor Kolyvanov transformed the match, scoring from 20-metres and setting up Massimiliano Cappioli for Bologna's second with a superb pass.

Only Di Livio's header from Juan Esnader's cross nine minutes from time spared Juve from a second successive league defeat.

Italian players took the pitch on Sunday wearing white T-shirts in support of a nationwide fundraising campaign to benefit Kosovo refugees.

A further 20,000 T-shirts, emblazoned with the campaign's "Missione Arcobaleno" (Mission Rainbow) slogan, were to go on sale in Rome before AS Roma's sell-out derby with Lazio at the Olympic stadium.

By Saturday morning, some \$10 million had been donated by the Italian public in under two weeks, according to government figures.



Ivan Zamorano



RIALTO FURNITURE

PROUDLY SPONSORING SOCCER WEEKLY'S ITALIAN SOCCER

THE BEST QUALITY IMPORTED ITALIAN FURNITURE

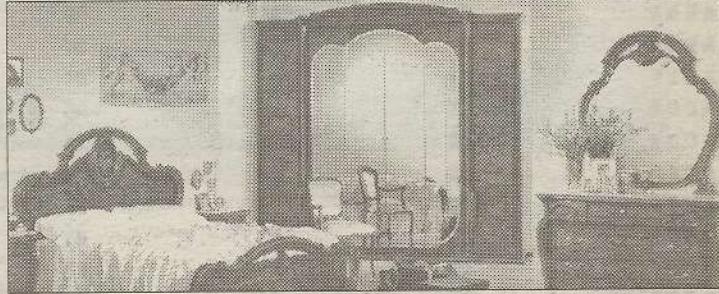
AT BEST PRICES

- Bedrooms Suites
- Lounges
- Wall Units
- Dining Suites

OPEN 7 DAYS

BEDROOM SUITES FROM \$2750





ASHFIELD
357 Liverpool Rd
9716 8510

DULWICH HILL
548 Marrickville Rd
9564 1886

PUNCHBOWL
1270 Canterbury Rd
9759 9064

YAGOONA
572-578 Hume Hwy
9796 7094

Compiled by

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

STADE DE VIOLENCE!

French Sports minister Marie-Georges Buffet met soccer officials from the Parisian suburbs midweek to try and reverse a decision to suspend all matches in the Seine St. Denis district because of violence on and off the pitch.

She said a final decision would be made shortly after local sports chiefs meet local authorities to discuss the problem.

"Soccer chiefs in Seine St. Denis will meet the local prefect in the next two days. They will then make their decision in full knowledge of what is going on," she said.

The Seine St. Denis soccer district said on Tuesday it was suspending all matches until further notice because of associated violence in the working class area north of Paris.

The decision followed a weekend of violence last month. On March 28 a player was stabbed by a fan at a match between Lusitania and Cosmos St. Denis while, in nearby Montereuil, fighting erupted in the stands.

Fans from the visiting team of Bobigny were beaten with bottles and a man was injured with a baseball bat.

Buffet said she would announce tough measures to tackle the issue, without elaborating.

Ironically, France's showcase stadium, the Stade de France, is located in Seine St. Denis

Still in France and Sylvain Wiltord is facing a stiff fine by league leaders Bordeaux after skipping training two days in a row, club co-president Jean-Didier Lange said.

The French striker last week staked his claim as the answer to France's long-standing striking problem at the Stade de France with a goal and an all-action showing in his country's 2-0 Euro 2000 win over Armenia.



Wiltord, who has twice been substitute, made his mark within two minutes of his first start for France.

Lange told French television station France 3 that Wiltord would be fined for missing training on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"This is an unacceptable incident. There was a moment of error but he apologised," said Lange. "Our directors will decide on the fine and coach Elie Baup will decide what measures should be taken."

As part of the action being taken against their star striker, Wiltord was excluded from the lineup of last Thursday's friendly between Bordeaux and second division side Niort.

Gernot Rohr, a former Girondins Bordeaux coach, was quoted as saying he had taken legal action against the French first division club for breach of contract.

Rohr, who had a contract with Bordeaux running until 2000, left them last summer and has since become the sports director of German first division Eintracht Frankfurt.

"The big breach was in 1996, when we (Bordeaux) reached the UEFA Cup final," Rohr told daily Die Welt in an interview released on Thursday. "Club president Jean-Didier Lange promised me I would remain their coach and my contract would be extended for three or four years."

"Instead of that he offered me a job as talent prospect and coach of the youth team," he said. "That was not in line with my contract."

Rohr said he had decided to take legal action after failing to reach a settlement.

ment co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.

"We've spoken with the board of the Arena to let them know. The loss of these seats would deprive the general public of 30,000 tickets," a Euro 2000 spokesman said.

Arena officials said they had sent letters to all debenture-holders asking them to forfeit their rights to the seats during the tournament.

The Arena is due to host five games, including a quarterfinal and a semifinal. But, if the stadium cannot guarantee all seats to the organisers by April 22, the Dutch capital will not host any games, the organizers said.

Euro 2000 said it wants to involve Amsterdam but would relocate matches to the Netherlands' three other main stadiums if necessary.

This might mean even fewer tickets becoming available because the stadiums in Arnhem and Eindhoven are much smaller than the Arena.

"It's not a financial issue, it's a matter of principle," the Euro 2000 spokesman said.

The first amount of the 1.2 million tickets will be allocated after applications close on May 7.

'GRANDE TORINO' HONOURED

Italian soccer will mark next month's 50th anniversary of the Superga air crash that wiped out the legendary Torino team in 1949.

The air disaster, similar to the one which devastated Matt Busby's Manchester United at Munich in 1958, robbed Italy of the "Grande Torino" side which won five straight league titles.

Thirty-one people perished — 18 players (10 of them internationals), five club officials, five crew members and three reporters — when their plane crashed into the Superga hillside overlooking Turin on May 4, 1949.

A week-long homage will be paid to those who died in the tragedy.

On May 4, two Masses will be held, one in the Superga Basilica and one in Turin Cathedral, followed by a match at the Delle Alpi stadium between Torino's present team and a Football League XI of Serie A players.

Torino will sport replicas of the jerseys worn by the great side of the 1940s.

The Euro 2000 organisers have given Amsterdam Arena two weeks to free up all its seats for sale or lose the right to host matches during next year's championships.

The Arena, home to Dutch champions Ajax, can hold up to 51,000, but 6,000 debenture-holders do not want to give up their rights during the three-week tourna-

TRAPP'S RAP: EDMUNDO FACES THE MUSIC

Fiorentina coach Giovanni Trapattoni, has finally given errant striker Edmundo his comeuppance ... in front of the rest of the team and 100 fans.

Edmundo has made his unwillingness to stay in Italy clear to everyone this season, both on and off the pitch. Last week, he was late for training after taking his family on a trip to Paris and as a punishment was ordered to stay in the changing rooms and keep away from the other players.

But on Wednesday, after months of being protected by the most successful coach in Italian soccer history, the volatile Brazilian finally got what was coming to him.

"We're sick of your attitude, we've been putting up with it for a whole year now," bellowed the coach for all to hear. "You're 30 years old now and it's about time you grew up."

"Try taking things seriously for a change — football's not just about what you do with your feet, it's about what's in your head as well. Otherwise, you're never going to get anywhere."

"People here are fighting for the league championship and we're also into the Italian Cup final," Trapattoni screamed at training. "If you don't want to play, why don't you go and tell the club president?"

Trapattoni's famous outbursts, one of which was turned into a rap record in Germany when he coached Bayern Munich, have helped him win 20 trophies in his career, including seven league titles in Italy.

Edmundo, dubbed "the animal", was recently sent to prison for four-and-a-half years after being involved in a fatal car crash. But he is free, pending appeal.

He has frequently been in dispute with the Italian club and abandoned it for 10 days at a crucial time in the season so he could play the drums in a marching samba band during the Rio carnival, which of course is a perfectly legitimate excuse!!

Cuba's national team arrived in Germany last week to train with a fourth division club. A spokesman for Bonn SC said the club would initially help the Cubans train for the Caribbean Cup tournament in June.

The club would then see if it could play the Cubans in

the German league.

"Initially it's a one-off, three-week thing. Then we'll decide if it should become longer-term," Bonn SC trainer Rainer Thomas told reporters as the Cubans arrived at Bonn/Cologne airport.

"German football is played at a high level and we can learn a lot from that," Cuba's trainer William Bennett said.

Originally the Cubans team was set to come to Bonn to benefit from German facilities and coaching. In return, Bonn SC could field any of the Cuban players in the league.

The deal was then postponed because of scheduling problems and organizational delays.

Matthias Sammer, Europe's 1996 player-of-the-year, was more than eager to jump from Dynamo Dresden to a western club when the opportunity presented itself with German reunification nine years ago.

The fiery redhead, a driving force behind Germany's European Championship three years ago and Borussia Dortmund's 1997 Champions Cup triumph, had dreamed of playing in the Bundesliga for years.

"It was the dream of the golden West," Sammer said. "Dresden offered me just as much money as VfB Stuttgart — but I left anyhow."

But now, Sammer, one of the best German players of the decade, regrets what has happened to East Germany as hundreds of their top talents have followed his lead.

The region's soccer landscape, while still churning out players like Fiorentina defender Joerg Heintz and Bayern Munich midfielder Jens Jeremies, is threatening to become a wasteland.

"My heart bleeds when I see what's become of East German soccer," Sammer said. "And I don't think it's reached bottom yet."

Hansa Rostock, from a small North Sea city, faces relegation as the last survivor from the region in the Bundesliga. The area's lone second-division entry, Energie Cottbus, also is hanging on by a thread.

For many from the East, what happened in soccer simply reflects what happened when the rich and capitalist West Germany took over the collapsing East

German socialist state.

And many East Germans are bitter.

"Let's face it, there was a war lost, a war that thankfully was carried out by peaceful means," FC Berlin coach Henry Haesler said. "It's clear those who were superior, those who won, divided up the spoils. It's not just happening in sports."

His club was known as Dynamo Berlin in its East German days and enjoyed the patronage of the country's ubiquitous secret police. That's one reason they captured the country's last 10 league titles.

Now the team has plummeted into the third division. All that's left from the glory days is a claim that 55 players, led by former German international Andreas Thom and one-time Roma player Thomas Doll, play for first- and second- division clubs.

But FC Berlin, like many East German clubs, wonders where all the transfer money for those players went.

Many say they fell victim to unsavory western businessmen who rushed in with claims that they had a magic formula about how to change state-run clubs into flourishing free enterprises.

"Let's put it this way. Some of the clubs fell into the hands of people who weren't very friendly to East German football — all they were interested in was the money," FC Berlin manager Horst Goehler said.

FC Berlin's third division league, the Northeast regional, is almost a replica of East Germany's former top league. Altogether, 14 teams from the Oberliga, as it was called, have been forced into an unwanted reunion in this lower league.

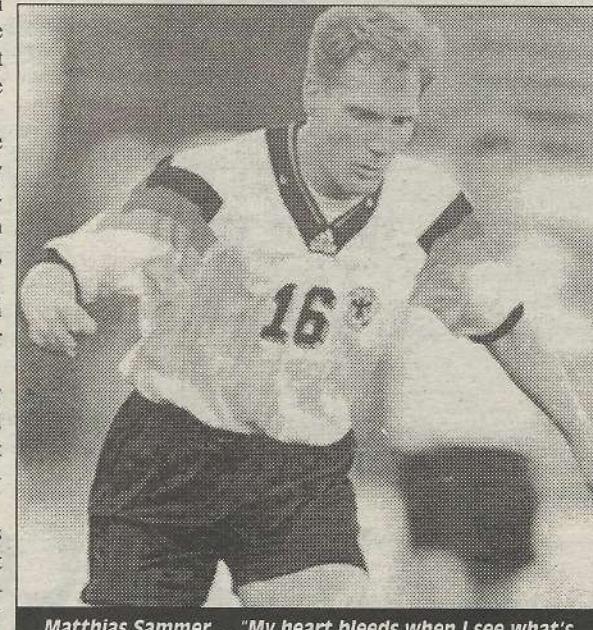
Their ranks include Dresden and VfB Leipzig, which lost the 1987 UEFA Cup final to Ajax Amsterdam 1-0.

The few top East German players who decided to stay with their clubs as agents marched in waving money after reunification often regret their decision.

Torsten Guetshow was on a Dynamo Dresden side that featured Sammer at midfield and Bayer Leverkusen's Ulf Kirsten, the Bundesliga's leading scor-

er of the 1990s, as his running mate at striker.

Guetshow chose to stay for reasons of loyalty at Dresden, which fell from the Bundesliga when its license was yanked following a scandal involving a western businessman. When the striker finally departed, his career stalled at various stops and he never enjoyed the big money.



Matthias Sammer ... 'My heart bleeds when I see what's become of East German soccer.'

"It was the worst mistake of my career," he said. "Essentially, I was the fool."

Many say the East German clubs won't enjoy a revival until an upturn in the region's depressed economy frees up sponsorship money. Western corporations have shied away from aligning their image with an east club, which are now labeled as losers.

"I hope the downward trend is stopped," Goehler said. "But if you look at the background, the economic conditions, the continuing downward spiral, it's going to be very, very difficult."

Compiled by

EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

EURO LEAGUES WRAP

Nantes, the last first division team left in the French Cup quarter-finals, beat second division En Avant Guingamp 2-0 to reach the last four.

The Canaries, who had not won in their last five games, looked tentative throughout but scored in each half through Olivier Monterrubio (29) and substitute Yves Deroff in the dying minutes of the match.

"We have not been used to being favourites this season, hence our nervousness," said Nantes manager Robert Budzinski.

"We played like we should and I have nothing to blame my players for. It is encouraging for next season," said Guingamp coach Guy Lacombe, a former Nantes player.

Nantes joined second division Le Mans in the semifinals with the two other games between Angouleme and Nimes, and Rouen and Sedan scheduled for late Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Le Mans beat Laval 3-1 on Thursday to reach the Cup semi-finals for the first time in their history.

Top flight teams had their worst ever showing in the Cup this season with 17 of them out after the third round.

Runaway German leaders Bayern Munich, looking tired three days after their 3-3 European Cup battle with Dynamo Kiev, could only manage a 1-1 draw with lowly Schalke 04.

Bayern looked to have left a lot of strength behind in Kiev in the first leg of Wednesday's semifinal tie but took the lead through striker Alexander Zickler four minutes into the second half.

But Schalke, needing points to stay clear of the relegation zone, levelled thanks to midfielder Oliver Held in the 62nd.

"It was very difficult for us physically," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "Schalke had a very tight defence and it wasn't a very exciting game to watch."

The Munich club are now 13 points clear of Bayer Leverkusen, who used a double strike from Ulf Kirsten to beat Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1.

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Rotterdam	26	20	4	2	61	25	64
MVV Maastricht	26	16	5	5	50	30	53
PSV Eindhoven	27	14	8	5	66	40	50
Willem II Tilburg	28	15	5	8	53	42	50
Roda JC Kerkrade	27	13	7	7	48	33	46
Ajax Amsterdam	26	12	8	6	54	28	44
Twente Enschede	27	12	8	7	41	34	44
Heerenveen	27	11	9	7	44	34	42
AZ Alkmaar	26	9	11	6	40	43	38
Fortuna Sittard	27	10	6	11	36	40	36
Utrecht	27	9	7	11	47	49	34
NEC Nijmegen	26	8	8	10	33	40	32
G'schap Doet'hem	27	6	10	11	31	46	28
C'buur L'warden	27	6	8	13	28	51	26
MVV Maastricht	28	5	9	14	32	51	24
RKC Waalwijk	28	4	6	18	28	53	18
Sparta Rotterdam	28	5	3	20	27	59	18
NAC Breda	26	3	6	17	27	48	15

Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYERS 'TOO GREEDY.'

Last week we reported on the incredible wage deal at Man Utd, and the fans' reaction. Now Chelsea have been given a similar blast by none other than the keeper who ruined England's World Cup hopes.

Real Mallorca keeper Carlos Roa blasted Chelsea's mega-bucks stars as "greedy" and said he would never consider a move to England.

The Argentina World Cup star, who has been linked with a £6million move to Manchester United, says he is more interested in his family and religion.

Devout Catholic Roa, 29, faced Chelsea in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final at Stamford Bridge with his Spanish side Mallorca.

"Everyone in England always talks about money and that is wrong and greedy," said the man whose penalty shoot-out heroics ended England's World Cup dreams.

"The Chelsea players earn a lot of money — more than I have. But I would never play in England just for the money as so many of their players obviously do."

"They all talk about money but that's not the most important thing in my life."

That's why I'd never go to England — the game is getting out of hand."

Roa is regarded by many as the best keeper in the world but he earns a fraction of the £30,000-a-week that Chelsea stars like Gianfranco Zola and Gianluca Vialli receive.

Roa claims he has had "a couple of offers" from Premiership clubs but refused to name them, although United boss Alex Ferguson is a known admirer.

But Roa remains determined to turn his back on wealth and more success to return to Argentina to be with his family.

He said: "Football is part of my life. But I believe every day that I'm looking for other things. The life of a footballer is very sophisticated but I miss my family and I'm not able to follow my religious beliefs."

"I'm no longer very young and I believe it's time to retire so I can enjoy my life to the full."

Roa claims he is the master at saving spot-kicks and still cannot believe England coach Glenn Hoddle did not get his players to practise before the World Cup shoot-out defeat in St Etienne.

Roa pulled off two great saves to deny Paul Ince and David Batty and clinch Argentina's quarter-final place.

Mallorca coach Hector Cupa said: "Carlos on current form is the best goalkeeper in the world and there's simply no-one better at saving penalties. If Chelsea want to beat Mallorca they will have to do well to beat Carlos Roa."

Real Mallorca's other main threat will be star striker Dani Garcia. Sheffield Wednesday had a £5m bid for him accepted a fortnight ago and it is now down to him to agree personal terms.

Dani Garcia said: "I'm very interested in moving to England but I will wait before making a decision."

Dundee secured a crucial victory in their fight to stay in the Premier League by convincing that body they can comply in time with regulations about the refurbishing of Dens Park.

Chairman Jimmy Marr, attending a meeting of the SPL in Glasgow, confirmed that the club have the funds in place to build two new stands and can complete them before the season starts.

His assurance effectively lifted the threat of Dundee being expelled from the top division. They can only drop out now by finishing bottom.

Dundee gave us their undertaking last May and have reaffirmed it today," SPL executive Ian Blair said. "Their plans are perfectly acceptable and we'd expect them to start work within the next few days."

Blair proceeded to dispel the notion that expulsion for Dundee could have saved Dunfermline, Hearts or Dundee United from relegation, should they finish in tenth position.

'Our rules state that the club finishing bottom will be relegated,' he insisted. 'Dundee could have been expelled by default, although I've no idea what the SFL would have said in the event of two teams dropping down.'

It is expected that Dens Park's £2.5million project will take up to 16 weeks. Thus, assuming they make a start by next week, the ground could re-open before August.

The controversy about whether they would retain their status intensified a few weeks ago, when they were said to be ready to accept £800,000 from Giovanni de Stefano, who has been linked to Serbian terrorists.

Dundee have now distanced themselves from that shadowy figure — but not from the possibility of being relegated.

Dunfermline returned to the bottom of the table as a result of Hearts' 3-1 win over Dundee United at Tannadice midweek.

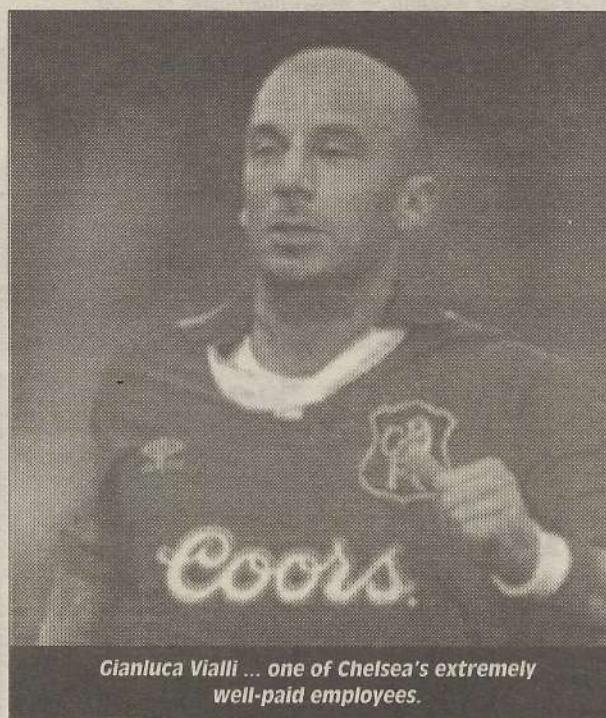
Emile Heskey is celebrating a wonder cure which has saved his Premiership career.

Leicester's bullocking striker has been fighting

persistent back problems for 18 months.

There were fears that Heskey might need major surgery. But now the England Under-21 star is finally free from pain — with the added promise that he can become 20 per cent better.

Heskey, under contract at Filbert Street for only one more season, has been sorted out at one-to-one sessions with David Rennie, the former



Gianluca Vialli ... one of Chelsea's extremely well-paid employees.

Commonwealth Games swimmer who helps run Loughborough's new East Midlands therapy clinic.

Boss Martin O'Neill said: "Emile's transformation is astonishing. Suddenly, he looks awesome. He's in the mood to produce his very best form consistently."

How much is keeping a team in the Premier League worth? Benito Carbone wants a double-your-money deal as his reward for saving Sheffield Wednesday from relegation.

Wednesday's brilliant Italian striker has been manager Danny Wilson's saviour at Hillsborough this season, single-handedly guiding the club away from relegation following the departure of Paolo Di Canio.

And he wants Wednesday's board to recognise the massive part he has played in preventing them from the disaster of dropping out of the Premiership with a massive new £22,000-a-week deal (what was Carlos Roa saying??).

The £3.5million signing from Inter Milan still has a year of his current deal to run — but Serie A clubs have been monitoring his superb form this season.

Carbone's agent Giovanni Branchini has already had one meeting with Wednesday secretary Graham Mackrell, but talks have stalled.

The 27-year-old striker — whose two priceless goals at Everton on Bank Holiday Monday virtually guaranteed Wednesday's safety for another year — wants a new four-year contract.

He said: "The ball is at the feet of Sheffield. It is important that they act quickly. There has been no direct contact with any other clubs, but there is a lot of interest in Bene."

Wednesday will have to break their pay structure to keep the Italian, but Wilson will demand he is given support from the board.

INTER-TOTO FOR VILLA?

John Gregory's Aston Villa will bid to get into Europe through the back door. This may be the only positive to come out of what has turned out to be a season with a slump to end all slumps. But it won't be easy to make this much derided and second rate Euro tournament.

Villa faces competition from Middlesbrough and Wimbledon, plus possibly Liverpool, Leicester, Southampton and Nottingham Forest.

The FA will nominate one club for the July competition based on final League positions.

Villa secretary Steve Stride confirmed: "Our name will be in the hat, although we still need to come fifth in the table."

"With the UEFA Cup now out of reach because FA Cup semi-finalists Newcastle are guaranteed one place, the Inter-Toto suddenly represents our only route into Europe."

"The two teams reaching the final go into the UEFA Cup, so it has to be a worthwhile venture. It's all very well to criticise the Inter-Toto, yet it provided the platform for Bordeaux to reach the 1996 UEFA final while Bologna could do the same this year."

Villa's awful run of ten games without a win, producing just three points from a possible 30, has destroyed any other hopes. Top scorer Julian Joachim confessed: "Our whole season is under threat of turning into one big waste of time."

"We got into the UEFA Cup by finishing seventh last year, yet fifth place won't be good enough 12 months later. It's crazy. But it's our own fault. We have let the situation slip away, and confidence is sorely lacking."

"On Tuesday night, we led 2-0 at Leicester and it looked like we would win at last. Then we crumbled again and were forced to settle for a draw."

Meanwhile, Sheffield Wednesday manager Danny Wilson has finally been able to bring Las Palmas' former German international Marco Haber on a week's trial with a view to a £400,000 move.

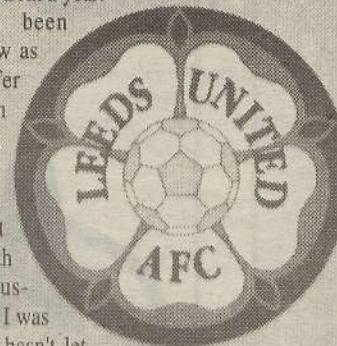
Wilson hopes to play him in the reserves today (Tues). He is also looking at French goalkeeper Max Aguela, a free agent recommended by coach Chris Waddle, in an effort to avoid the relegation troubles next year.

Leeds will complete the £1.5million signing of on-loan Dutch winger Willem Korsten from Vitesse Arnhem this week.

Korsten is the first of five names manager David O'Leary has handed to chairman Peter Ridsdale as he begins to build for Leeds' future and also settle his own five-year contract at around £1m a year.

O'Leary has been forced to act now as the Dutch transfer window closes in two days (15/4). He said: "I didn't want to play him so we could get him fitter, but with our injury and suspension problems I was forced to and he hasn't let me down."

Leeds have already paid around £200,000 as part of the loan agreement and the balance will be settled once Korsten signs a three or four-year deal.

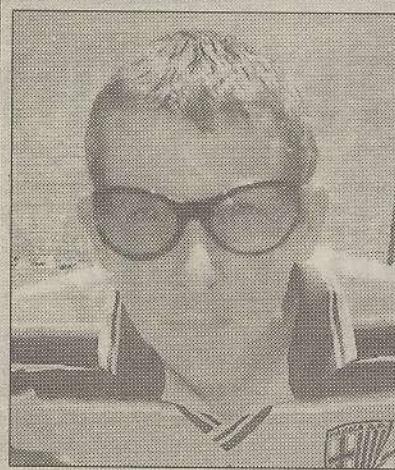


Carlos Roa against David Batty ... 'Ince and Batty were nervous'

Roa said: "Ince and Batty were nervous and needed practice. Everyone needs to be sharp and ready. I still practise penalty saves every day. I would feel very confident again if we went into a penalty shoot-out with another English team."

He has already set two clean sheet records — including a 557-minute shut-out — as Mallorca went top of the Spanish First Division earlier this season.

UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



Pommy quack David Kernick, court physician to Exeter City, is clamouring for a ban on heading the ball.

While he admits that the header is a fundamental footballing skill, and that it would be impossible to rule it out completely, Kernick suggests confining the practice to the penalty box. He argues that the smack of noggin on leather

can cause brain damage and 'mental decline'?

While his report in the British Medical Journal has not made its way to the Crazy office, we're assuming his findings are based on evidence from Manchester United. In the 'News of the World' this weekend, Dwight Yorke is said to take a pet monkey to bed with him, while David Beckham's newly designed family crest bears the initials 'VD' — for Victoria and David!

Our work experience lad Zbigniew was a goal-keeper back in the home country. He misses the parched Kashubian earth of the Polish winter, and the footballers diet of cabbage and well, cabbage.

"It's affecting my concentration," he told me the other day. "On Saturday I saved two penalties, and scored direct from a goal kick. But I'm not even in the team. I did it in my kitchen while the

piroshki was cooking. You have to help me."

To cheer him up I told him the story of the Arsenal goal-keeper's jersey. Not a lot of people know this, but

Tommy Gunners' goalies never take the field in

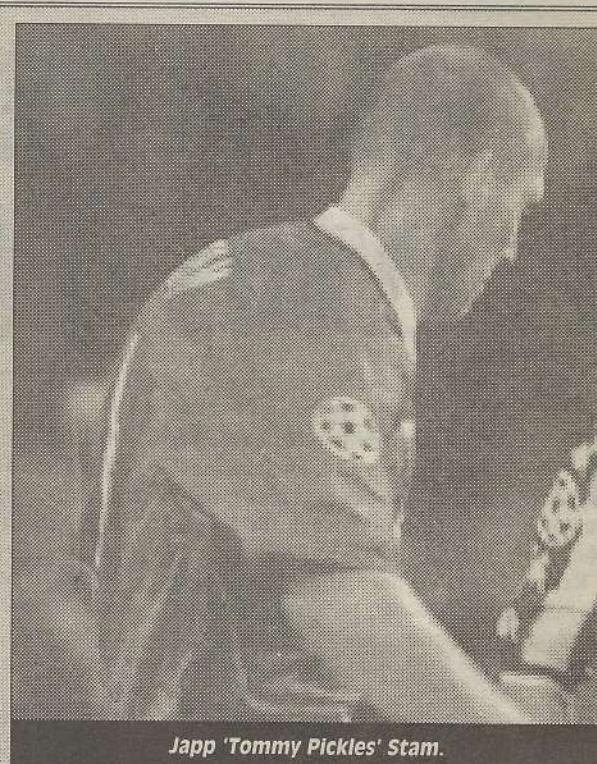
a new jumper. The reason?

During the 1927 FA Cup Final, the Arse's Welsh keeper let in an easy goal against Cardiff when a spinning shot from Hughie Ferguson wormed its way under his chest and trickled into the net.

There were accusations that the keeper had let his Welsh compatriot opponents take the lead, though Bluebirds players rallied in his defence, arguing that confusion in the goal-mouth had left the goalie befuddled.

Whatever, the permanent legacy of this incident — which meant the FA Cup left England for the first and only time in its history — is that a Gooner goalie will only ever enter the paddock with a pre-washed jumper — not a shiny new one — in an effort to prevent a further slippery episode.

On Easter Monday Crazy K was dragged by his kids to see the Rugrats movie. He tells us he was pleasantly surprised and enjoyed it immensely. Of special interest to K was the appearance of Jaap Stam in the movie, in his first acting role as young



Japp 'Tommy Pickles' Stam.

Tommy Pickles. He looks great in a diaper. Perhaps he borrowed it from Dwight Yorke's monkey?

In comparison with some sports, soccer stays out of the courts. However, the excellent Hastings Town fanzine 'Ghost of United' [93 The Ridge, Hastings, TN34 2AB, England] questions how long that will be the case.

As evidence they cite recent UK lawsuits in which a woman was awarded \$1.5 million in damages for being injected with a used needle, and a policewoman won \$300,000 for the devastation caused by ill-fitting body armour.

"What about what Hastings Town supporters go through then," asks the fanzine in a scathing editorial.

"How many still suffer from Post Traumatic Tamworth Late Winner syndrome?"

In a desperate attempt to raise revenue, the zine then goes on to incite Town supporters to take court action against the club, individual players, the Dr. Martens League, and match officials.

"If a prick in the finger is valued at \$1.5 million" they argue, "How much is the one with the yellow flag on October 17th worth?"

A case for Judge Judy perhaps?

**CHEAPEST PRICES TO
SOUTH AMERICA,
EUROPE, USA & ASIA**

BONANZA
SPECIAL REDUCED
AIR FARES FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS

You will not be disappointed

RING NOW
9660 5736



SUPPORTERS' CLUBS

Far from home? Homesick without your home team? Soccer Weekly keeps you up to date with your Australian supporters clubs.

Club: Havant and Waterlooville FC

Contact: Colin White

Address: PO Box 199, Newtown, NSW 2042

"Havant and Waterlooville are a new club this season — the merger of two old Southern League clubs — we play in the Dr. Martens League. Until the merger, Waterlooville had a long history of success, and had several giant-killing runs in the FA Cup over the years. When a merger was first mooted I was heartbroken. I felt so cut off, being out here."

"But the people I know at the club tell me it's a good idea, and it's kept the name alive, so I've come around to supporting the idea. The fact that we are ten points clear at the top of the league has obviously helped."

"I've supported the 'Ville since 1980, and when I came to Australia I thought I'd lose touch. But people at the club send us programmes, and I get newspaper cuttings from my parents who still live in Havant."

"We have always been a small club, living in the shadow of Portsmouth, Southampton and Brighton, but we're a passionate lot, and once you have the bug it's hard to get rid of. And that's doubly so for H&W supporters in Australia."

"We have a great old knees up when we get together. Havant fans and Ville fans used to hate each other, but the old animosity has died now. We down a few pints at the Lord Nelson, argue about the old days, and then stagger home."

"The new colours haven't arrived yet, so we all wear our old jerseys and scarves. It must be quite a surprise for people to see soccer supporters in different teams jerseys getting on so well!"

Email Crazy Craig at magic sponge@hotmail.com

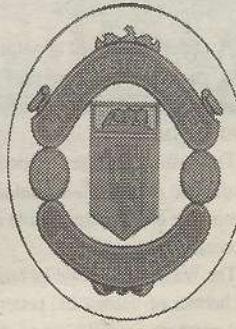
Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly



WHAT THEY SAID AFTER THE GAME...



There was a mixed reaction in the English press to the big Champions League game midweek. The Manchester Evening News said of the Red Devils that they 'may be the Champions' League 'paupers' when it comes to bonus cheques but they're rich in never-say-die spirit.'

It continued on the financial metaphor line: 'You could have dangled a history-making dividend in front of the Reds last night and it wouldn't have encouraged a better response.'

'The truth was that United faced the unpalatable reality that their European Cup dream was being torn from their grasp. Money didn't come into it. Nine months of Euro toil slipping from their clutches did.'

'As hopes of Barcelona in May faded, United dipped into their bulging account of resilience.'

This probably says more about how much Juventus players earn than anything else.

Others focussed on individuals: 'YORKE: IT HURT TO BE SUBBED BUT I AM NOT GOING TO SULK', was the Daily Mirror headline after the game.

'For once that famously infectious grin was missing. Manchester United's £12.6 million record buy couldn't hide the torment of finishing goalless against Juventus in the Champions League on Wednesday — his fifth, frustrating game without a goal.'

Meanwhile in the less hyperbolic broadsheets, The Independent described Man Utd's comeback as 'her-

culean', and Juventus' display as having a 'mastery' about it. It also quoted Juve scorer Conti as saying that in these types of crunch games, some players rise to the challenge and some fall. Wonder who he was talking about?

Meanwhile the Corriere Della Sera in Italy was less than impressed with the Turin lads, saying that Juventus narrowly avoided a 'gross' (big) hit from Man Utd.

And still in Italy, Juve star Edgar Davids flew back to Turin in the early hours of Thursday morning kicking himself that Manchester United's European Cup dream is still alive.

The Dutch superstar believed the Italian giants should have shown no mercy and killed them off at Old Trafford. Talking to the Italian press he said: "When we go 1-0 up we usually lock the door and throw away the key," he said. "But we didn't do that this time. We gave them back the key."

Now Davids and Co are determined to finish the job in Turin a week on Wednesday with one mission in mind: Stop Ryan Giggs. The Welshman showed in the final 45 minutes what a threat he can be to world class defenders and his goal was a warning.

Davids adds: "United played with more aggression going forward because they had Giggs playing for the win in the second half. I felt United came alive when Giggs played and he will be a danger to us in Turin."

KEEGAN ERA BOOSTS SALES OF ENGLAND SHIRTS

Kevin Keegan's arrival as the nation's soccer saviour could boost sales of the new England shirt beyond the magic 1,000,000 mark.

And that means the Keegan effect will bring in an amazing £40million bonanza following the highly-hyped launch of the strip for home internationals.

England stars Alan Shearer, Michael Owen and David Seaman were on parade wearing it for the first time in front of thousands of screaming kids at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre just last week.

Spokesman for manufacturers Umbro, Peter Draper, admitted: "Keegan taking over from Glenn Hoddle as the England coach has clearly sparked a fresh wave of enthusiasm right round the country. That won't do us any harm at all, and we will be delighted if the sales figure is approaching a million over the two-year lifespan of the new shirt."

The Football Association are already coining it thanks to a five-year deal with Umbro worth around £60million.

But they now have plenty of reasons to cross their fingers, together with every England fan, that Keegan will agree to stay on beyond his current four-game agreement.

The new shirts go on sale on St George's Day, April 23, and Shearer and co will wear them for the friendly in Hungary five days later.

Chelsea will receive a £120,000-per-man bonus if they win the Premiership and the Cup Winners' Cup.

Chelsea chairman Ken Bates has committed the club to the deal knowing that winning the Premiership would bring at least a £10 million windfall with entry into the Champions League.

Scotland captain Gary McAllister has quit international football after being hounded out by the Tartan Army's jeering fans.

The Coventry skipper has broken the news to boss Craig Brown after taking a week to think over his decision following his treatment in the defeat by the Czech Republic.

McAllister has decided to get out now after a decade in the Scottish side and concentrate on his club football rather than carry on as a scapegoat.

The midfielder was upset at the response to his comeback after missing out almost a year — including the World Cup finals — with a serious knee injury.

A section of the Scotland fans have never forgiven him for a penalty miss against England in Euro 96, while some critics — like Charlie Nicholas — have also said he should be dropped.

Rix Sex Case: BATES DEFENDS CHELSEA MAN

Ken Bates announced last night that he has "no sympathy" for the 15-year-old girl who was the victim of jailed Chelsea sex offender Graham Rix.

And he said Rix's 12-month sentence was "appallingly harsh".

The Chelsea chairman revealed that Rix was not being paid during his prison term. But Chelsea will be paying Rix's family their upkeep.

Bates, who last night saw his side draw 1-1 with Real Mallorca in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg, used his programme notes for his extraordinary outburst.

His tirade is intended to defend his club's actions. Instead it is more likely to re-open the wounds of a damaging controversy. Bates bizarrely compared Rix's sentence to terrorists, ranting:

"An IRA mass murderer got 12 months and a former Chelsea employee caught stealing whilst in a position of trust got community service. Where's the justice?"

He claimed that Rix, 41, the club coach and a former England midfielder, received a punishment from Judge Timothy Pontius at Knightsbridge Crown Court that was far too severe.

Bates said: "Let me make it quite clear. I have no sympathy for Graham Rix, nor do I condone his behaviour."

"But he is neither a pervert or a paedophile. I have no sympathy for the girl involved, but I have a great deal of sympathy for Rix's four innocent children who can now look forward to a childhood of vilification and persecution."

"We have been criticised for announcing our decision so quickly to keep Rix's job open. But the punishment for Rix's offence was appallingly harsh. Chelsea have no intention of adding to it."

"He will resume his duties upon release. He is not being paid in the interim, although his family will be provided for. Chelsea look after their own."

Bates's column also contained several allegations about the details of Rix's dangerous liaison.

He said: "Unlike some clubs, the gutter press will not be allowed to run Chelsea Football Club. That is the duty of the board, including the chairman."

"We must make the decisions, as we see them in the best interests of justice and Chelsea, irrespective of media-manipulated so-called public opinion. Popularity is rightly for others, such as players and coaches."

Directors must not be swayed by the hysteria whipped up in the media."

Bates delved into the detail of the case, firstly fighting the "indecent assault charge". He said: "This consisted of dancing and French kissing, to

which the girl willingly responded. The girl admitted that she had indulged in such actions before, including having her breasts fondled. For that, Rix got four months.

"Secondly, between January 8, 1998 and February 27, 1998, the girl phoned Rix using her mobile no less than 19 times. Rix did not phone her once. Thirdly, the girl lied about her age on two occasions saying she was two months short of her 17th birthday. She had admitted that she lied, her father accepted that, as recorded on his tape.

"Fourthly, the girl told Rix she was on the pill. Why? Fifthly, the girl consistently lied to her parents as to her whereabouts, claiming she was staying overnight with friends.

"Sixthly, the girl, having told her sister that she was visiting a girlfriend, of her own volition made a journey across London from Fulham to Kensington, went to Rix's hotel room after 10pm, and participated in the acts which Rix was charged with. There was no force used. It was by consent and the girl was used to drink.

"Afterwards the girl refused to go home because she had told her family that she would be out all night. If your 15-year-old daughter had told you that, would you not make further inquiries? For that, the judge gave Rix eight months in jail."

Bates admitted that the decision to pay Rix's family "may offend some people".

He was also scathing about the role of the girl's father who has been portrayed in a newspaper as a "successful businessman".

He asked: "Why did he wait seven months before going to the police? Why did he tape his conversation with Rix? Why did he sell his story for £100,000? Why did he go on both Talk Radio and GMTV?"

"We know more about this girl and her father than has come out so far. So don't weep so much for her, and treat the father with the contempt he deserves. The whole situation stinks."

Zinedine Zidane's perfect display last week in the Champions League has merely confirmed his status as the man everyone, including Alex Ferguson, wants in his dressing room.

If, as expected, France's World Footballer of the Year is formally put on the market after the Champions League semi-final second leg, Juve know that Alex Ferguson will be waiting, cheque book in hand, despite the blocking of the sale of the club to BSkyB by the British government.

Although the hopes and fears of Manchester United fans are fixed exclusively on the test in Turin on April 21, Ferguson's eyes are already trained on a variety of other prizes — none of which are silver or can be competed

for on the football pitch, only bought.

They are the world's elite handful of players, Edwin van der Sar, Lillian Thuram, Juan Sebastian Veron, Zidane and Gabriel Batistuta.

Ferguson said: "They are wonderful footballers who could bring something extra here. But we are talking about the top four or five players in the world in their respective positions and they would run into fortunes."

Under that top layer rests an almost equally rich stratum: Gianluigi Buffon, Rivaldo, Marcelo Salas and Henrik Larsson, all of whom have attracted Ferguson's attention.

The Old Trafford manager's restless ambition has already vaulted far beyond the next fortnight and he is currently plotting the transfers needed for the next two or three years — assuming Manchester United meet his own contractual demands.

The process of adding muscle must start long before this season proves whether the current squad is strong enough to conquer Europe. Who could blame him for wanting a team which doesn't put him through 'torture', as he described Wednesday night's 1-1 draw with Juventus in the first leg of the Champions League semi-final.

The exercise will start, Ferguson now believes, with the £8million purchase of Ajax's Holland goalkeeper van der Sar, an urgent replacement given that Peter Schmeichel is about to demob.

Replacing the other troops, however, is a much more sensitive and difficult operation — one which Ferguson is now willing to discuss.

"The players I already have here compare favourably with any of the others around, so you can see the difficulty with improving that," he told The Scotsman newspaper.

"Because of the level at which our ambitions lie, it is quite difficult to improve our squad. In defence you would be looking at Parma's Thuram, a genuine top-class man who could improve things here."

In midfield there would be Zidane at Juventus or Veron, also at Parma. In attack you would be thinking of Batistuta of Fiorentina, a world-class player who has been the top scorer in Italy for something like five of the last six seasons."

Zidane, undoubtedly, would be the jewel in the crown. However arresting his performance in the Stade de France last July when he won the World Cup for France almost single-handed, it is the way he has now tormented United on four separate occasions which has seduced Ferguson.

Veron and Thuram are both relentless footballing machines, blessed with a combination of aggression, speed and intimidating physical presence.

All three are fairly likely to move club in the summer but there is a lengthy queue of managers waiting eagerly and Ferguson is gearing up his board once again to spend the 'fortunes' which brought Dwight Yorke and Jaap Stam for a combined £23m.

Compiled and written by

Daniel Giorelando

UK

Division One highlights

BRADFORD V PORTSMOUTH

Bradford City stuttered to their third win in a row at Valley Parade to climb into second place in the race for promotion into the Premier League.

The Bantams kept their bid for promotion to the Premiership alive with a crucial 2-1 win over plucky Portsmouth.

However, they were made to sweat in the dying moments as Pompey poured men forward in search of a dramatic equaliser.

Lee Mills and Lee Sharpe appeared to sew up the match for City by half-time, but the visitors, facing a battle against relegation, should consider themselves unlucky not to have taken something from the game after striker John Durnin gave them a lifeline in the second-half.

They certainly looked the brighter of the two sides during the early stages of a dismal opening 45 minutes.

Apart from a couple of early chances for City, Portsmouth were enjoying much of the possession. Striker Steve Claridge, latching on to a telling pass through the middle was denied a good opportunity to put Pompey ahead, when City 'keeper Gary Walsh rushed out of the penalty box to clear the ball with a brave header.

On-loan star Lee Sharpe then squandered a great chance for The Bantams when he saw his close-range header bobble wide of the post after Peter Beagrie sent over a terrific cross from the left towards the back post.

City, looking jittery, were clearly struggling to get into the game when they managed to grab the lead with their first shot on target.

Striker Mills chipped the ball over 'keeper Alan

Knight to score his 23rd goal of the season, after picking up Sharpe's inch-perfect angled pass into the box.

Pompey were shell-shocked and City almost doubled their lead with a well-struck Peter Beagrie free-kick, which veteran 'keeper Knight did well to save.

City then snatched their second goal after 35 minutes when Sharpe looped his header from seven yards over the stranded 'keeper to give The Bantams a flattering 2-0 lead at the break.

With a strong wind at their backs during the second half, Portsmouth began to push men forward.

Impish midfielder Sammy Igoe—who teased and tormented The Bantams in an impressive display—saw a powerful strike from 25 yards flash just inches past Walsh's right-hand post.

However, City should have wrapped things up after 57 minutes when striker Dean Windass flicked the ball from a good position inside the box over the advancing 'keeper, only to see his shot creep agonisingly past the far post.

Portsmouth were looking more and more threatening as the half wore on and it was no surprise when they silenced the home support to haul themselves back in the game.

Striker John Durnin steered a low right-foot shot from close-range into the net after collecting Fitzroy Simpson's cut-back from the byline after 67 minutes.

Pompey continued to press for an equaliser, but they ran out of time. They have now only won once in their last nine games.

QPR V WEST BROMWICH

AGAVIN PEACOCK goal two minutes from time gave Rangers the points which will probably keep them in Division One.

Boss Gerry Francis described it as "a vital win." The Rangers manager was also pleased with what he called his "gamble" for the day. Jermaine Darlington—a £25,000 deadline day capture from Aylesbury—had a stunning game at left wing-back to help Rangers to such an important win.

Peacock's goal, driven in from close to the penalty spot following a low cross from Chris Kiwomya put an end to a second half where the team from the Midlands dominated.

Indeed Rangers needed to thank 'keeper Ludek Miklosko for the three points. On 75 minutes the Czech 'keeper pulled off a super double save. West Brom's flying Dutchman Richard Sneekes picked up the ball midway in the Rangers half. The pony-tailed Emmanuel Petit lookalike evaded three challenges on a mazy run and shot low and hard to Miklosko's left. The 'keeper could only beat out the shot to the feet of Brian Quailey and as the big striker shaped to shoot

Miklosko managed to block again as he stood tall.

The double save came in the middle of an intense period of pressure from Albion. QPR debutant Andy Linighan made a saving tackle at the feet of Quailey and Sneekes had another shot saved.

The first half had been a quiet affair for much of the 45 minutes. The main action came from the battle between Quailey and Fabian De Freitas against Karl Ready, Danny Maddix and Linighan.

Former Palace player Linighan had a shaky first half which ultimately led to West Brom taking the lead in first half injury-time.

He felled De Freitas on the edge of the box and all QPR eyes turned to Sneekes who a minute earlier had fizzed a free-kick over the bar.

The Dutchman stepped up for the second kick but back-heeled into the path of Kevin Kilbane to fire home from 20 yards.

QPR didn't lose heart however, from the restart they won a foul to the left of the Albion penalty box. Paul Murray whipped in a low cross for Ready to stoop low and head in unmarked from six yards at the far post.

CREWE V PORT VALE

BOTH Crewe and Port Vale are ruining missed chances as neither side could be happy with the 0-0 score, one which helps neither side in the race to avoid relegation from the first Division.

Mark Rivers and Mike Newell missed sitters which would have given Crewe the vital three points in the derby tussle with fellow relegation strugglers Port Vale.

Mark Rivers contrived to lift the ball into Vale 'keeper Paul Musselwhite's hands with the goal at his mercy in first-half injury-time and then substitute Mike Newell failed to connect sufficiently with a far-post header from a Danny Murphy cross with the goal again gaping in the closing moments of the match.

Vale manager Brian Horton was happy to settle for the goalless draw - the North Staffordshire side's first for sixty games - after shoring things up at the back by playing three centre-halves to stem the pace of Rivers and Rodney Jack.

Danny Murphy had an early chance for Crewe, but scuffed his shot wide from near to the penalty spot

after he had fought his way through a couple of weak Vale challenges.

At the other end Martin Foyle mis-directed a header from a David Brammer cross well wide of 'keeper Jason Kearton's goal.

The veteran striker then claimed he was impeded by David Walton as he shaped to shoot in the Crewe box shortly afterwards.

Despite those moments of threat by the visitors, Crewe had the upper hand in what was a poor game marred by a swirling wind and the inevitable tensions of a relegation battle.

David Brammer was fortunate when he cleared a Jack cross over his own bar during a spell of Crewe pressure before the first half developed a nasty edge with a spate of bookings and a minor brawl when Crewe midfielder Seth Johnson followed in on Vale 'keeper Paul Musselwhite after a Shaun Smith cross.

In the second half Crewe were by far the better side although neither side could break the deadlock.

SUNDERLAND V HUDDERSFIELD

Sunderland moved to within three points of a guaranteed return to the Premiership after outplaying promotion hopefuls Huddersfield at a blustery Stadium of Light.

The visitors had 'keeper Nico Vaesen to thank for not crashing to a demoralising defeat, such was the dominance of Peter Reid's side in chalking up a 12th successive home win.

The Weariders created a host of chances and but for the heroics of Vaesen and better finishing would have sent another near full-house crowd home in even better spirits.

Vaesen saved from Man-of-the-Match Lee Clark, Town skipper Steve Jenkins almost headed into his own net and Kevin Phillips fired wide from a good position before Niall Quinn forced the vital breakthrough.

Clark beat Lee Richardson and centred to the big Irish striker, who chested the ball down before beating Vaesen via the base of the post for his 19th goal of the season.

The Terriers, without a win in six matches and missing eight players through injuries and suspension, left Wayne Allison to plough a loan furrow up front and it was no surprise they were unable to put the home

defence under any sustained pressure.

Indeed, it was even less of a surprise when Sunderland went further ahead in the 41st minute with a cracking goal from Allan Johnston.

Nicky Summerbee's right-wing centre was headed down by Phillips for the Scottish international to strike a superb 18-yard drive just inside the upright.

A Paul Butler mistake gave Marcus Stewart a rare chance, but Town's leading goalscorer hit his 12-yard drive straight at a relieved Thomas Sorensen, who went on to keep his 27th clean sheet of the season.

Allison beat Sorensen in the air to a Jamie Vincent free-kick only for his looping header to finish on the roof of the net and dash any hopes of a belated comeback.

Reid sent on all his three substitutes in the 70th minute, replacing skipper Kevin Ball, Summerbee and Quinn with Darren Holloway, Michael Bridges and Daniele Dichio, as the home side finished strongly without managing to increase their lead.

Bridges set up Phillips, whose close-range volley was superbly saved by Vaesen, Andy Melville's firm header from Clark's free-kick was turned behind in style by the overworked 'keeper and in the last minute the Belgian denied Phillips with another outstanding save.

BRISTOL V GRIMSBY

BRISTOL City made it three wins in a row to haul themselves off the bottom of Division One after they defeated Grimsby Town by 3-0.

Carrying a host of injuries, Grimsby where played off the Park, leaving manager Alan Buckley to groan: "The season can't end soon enough for my players."

After their early run towards the top of the division, his side has been sinking since Christmas with just one win out of 11.

Here they got off to a great start with Lee Ashcroft hitting a glorious shot on the run into the top of the net.

That lead lasted just eight minutes before Steve Torpey, with a close-range volley, rounded off a move started by former Spurs captain David Howells.

Howells pass along the touch-line saw Canadian defender Jim Brennan drop a perfect cross into Torpey's path.

Ashcroft then had a chance to put The Mariners back in front but drove a shot wide of an empty net. From then on it was all downhill for the visitors.

They arrived without their centre-backs Peter Handyside and Richard Smith, both injured, and at the midway point of the second half, lost right-back John

McDermott with a leg injury.

For City it was just the encouragement they needed as they ended a long dismal spell of their own, and Torpey and Akinyiye gave defenders a torrid time.

"It was as well we got our points early on because our defending today was appalling", admitted Buckley.

A free-kick led to a second home goal just before the interval when Akinyiye outjumped his marker to loop a header over 'keeper Andrew Love, deputising once again for the highly-rated Davison.

Buckley knew the first ten minutes of the second half would be vital and sent on the experienced Lee Nogan in place of Jack Lester. Yet the break, when it came, went City's way. Brian Tinnion drove a first-time shot across Love's body after being released by Ade Akinyiye.

The scoring was complete just after the hour when Akinyiye robbed Tony Gallimore to thrust his volley high in to the net.

City's Swedish coach Benny Lennartsson could hardly conceal his delight.

Nevertheless, he warned: "We still have a lot to do, but at least the fear has now gone out of our game and we are in there with a chance to escape."



NEXT WEEK
SOCCKET SPICE
MEETS THE
WOMEN BEHIND
THE MEN IN THE
ERICSSON CUP

Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

League Highlights

ASTON VILLA V SOUTHAMPTON

Aston Villa secured their first Premiership victory in nearly three months with a 3-0 win over relegation-threatened Southampton at Villa Park on Saturday.

The result saw Villa end a disastrous run of ten league games without a win which had yielded just three points and seen them slip from serious title contenders into a battle for a place in Europe.

It was hardly vintage football from John Gregory's side, who might have won by an even greater margin, but they would happily have accepted three points under any circumstances.

Villa were into their stride early, Julian Joachim just inches wide with a glancing header from an Alan Wright cross in the opening minute.

Southampton played with surprising fluency given their league position and Egil Ostenstad squandered an opportunity to give them a fifth-minute lead.

An accurate ball from the recalled Matt Le Tissier picked out Ostenstad who burst into the Villa penalty area and found himself with only Mark Bosnich to beat. The Norwegian international tried to place the ball wide of the goalkeeper, Bosnich managing to block with his feet.

Chris Marsden then flashed a dipping 25-yard effort just past the post.

After 13 minutes, Villa midfielder Mark Draper brought welcome relief to the home side with his first league goal of the campaign.

The former Leicester player made a surging run from midfield and shrugged off the challenge of Marsden before placing a shot across the body of Saints' goalkeeper Neil Moss.

Moss then turned over a curling free-kick from Draper following a foul by Claus Lundekvam on Julian Joachim.

Steve Stone went close his first Villa goal after neat trickery by Lee Hendrie – on for the injured Alan

Thompson - but his left-footed drive flew high and wide from close range.

Southampton's hopes of a recovery suffered a serious blow five minutes before the break when Norwegian defender Lundekvam was dismissed for a second bookable offence following a crude challenge on Ian Taylor.

In the remaining minutes of the first half, Villa missed two opportunities to extend their lead. Moss came racing from his line to save at the feet of Joachim and then Taylor shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

Villa continued in the same vein after the interval with Hendrie sending a glancing header across the face of goal from a Stone cross.

Le Tissier effectively found himself as the lone striker as Jones reverted to a 4-4-2 system, however it was now one-way traffic towards the Saints goal and in the 66th minute, Villa effectively ended the game as a contest.

Merson's clever chip picked out Joachim who shrugged off Ken Monkou before lobbing the ball over the advancing Moss.

Hendrie then shot wide from close range and Moss did well to deflect an effort from Joachim for a corner but in the 89th minute Dion Dublin struck to send the Villa fans home happy.

Stone again found acres of space and his far post cross found the unmarked Dublin who duly completed the scoring.

The result will have been a relief for Villa after a dismal run, but for Southampton the outlook is bleak.

Although they battled bravely, relegation looms unless they can improve on their woeful away form.

The Saints have now taken just six points out of 51 on their travels and, even if they win their last three home matches, they will almost certainly need some reward from their last two away games, at Derby and Wimbledon, to have a chance of survival.

LEICESTER V WEST HAM

Leicester City met West Ham United at Filbert Street on Saturday, the sides producing an exciting encounter which ended goalless despite numerous scoring opportunities.

Ex-Hammer Tony Cottee, fresh from his 200th top-flight goal, was treated to a fine reception from his old east London fans and was in the thick of the action, linking well with his midfield to bring colleagues into the game.

Much of Leicester's early play revolved around Steve Guppy. Trevor Sinclair and Steve Potts struggled to contain the left winger as West Ham withstood an early barrage from the home side.

The Hammers still managed to create the best opportunity of the opening period when Paolo Di Canio crossed from the left and Trevor Sinclair saw his diving header flash inches wide of the far post.

Arnar Gunnlaugsson then embarked on a personal duel with Shaka Hislop. The Icelandic international forced Hislop to touch his effort over the bar before taking a Guppy lay-off and drawing another fine save from the Hammers keeper.

A minute later Emile Heskey found Gunnlaugsson, who forced Hislop to save well again to his right.

West Ham survived this spell of pressure and Di Canio began to probe with his clever runs and positioning. Creative midfielder Eyal Berkovic slowly began to find space, but it was all counter attacking from the Hammers as they struggled to contain the aggression of Robbie Savage and Neil Lennon.

Leicester should have scored after 29 minutes when Di Canio dithered on the edge of the box while attempting to effect a clearance. In the resulting confusion, the ball ran between them for Emile Heskey

to hook a shot inches over the angle with the outside of his right foot.

West Ham managed their first on shot target shot after 31 minutes. A low drive from Steve Lomas was palmed away by Kasey Keller for a corner before Paul Kitson could reach the loose ball.

Fine play by Di Canio and Berkovic then allowed the little Israeli to skip into the box and fire in a low shot, saved by Keller with some difficulty.

Leicester emerged in attacking mood after the break, Hislop again involved in the action, before Frank Lampard went close for the Hammers after 48 minutes.

Played in by Sinclair, Lampard forced Keller to block at point-blank range.

After regaining possession just six yards out, the midfielder mishit his shot and saw it bobble wide.

Hislop made excellent saves from Guppy and Lennon, before O'Neill threw on another big striker in Ian Marshall to put additional aerial pressure on the visitors. Heskey and Andy Impey shot narrowly wide as Leicester increased the tempo.

West Ham then saw Ian Wright return to action after three months out when he took over from Kitson with 18 minutes left.

Seven minutes later Wright missed a glittering chance to put West Ham ahead. Berkovic and Lampard conjured a brilliant move through midfield, finding Wright unmarked 12 yards out.

The striker hit his shot too high however, and Keller was able to get a fingertip to the shot and flick it over.

Harry Redknapp went for safety after that with John Moncur taking over from Di Canio to secure the point.



Ian Wright is back after a three month lay-off.

DERBY V NOTTS FOREST

Derby County defeated Nottingham Forest 1-0 in a dour derby match at Pride Park on Saturday, with Dutch striker Pierre van Hooijdonk again involved in a controversial incident.

Record signing Horacio Carbonari scored a superb winner five minutes from time, beating two defenders before drilling a low 18-yard shot beyond Mark Crossley and into the far corner.

That was sufficient to seal all three points for the Rams, who clinched a 2-2 draw at the City Ground in November courtesy of Carbonari's equaliser.

The Argentinian also cleared Marlon Harewood's first-half effort off the line as relegation loomed larger than ever for Nottingham Forest, who failed to capitalise on nearly 20 minutes of numerical superiority.

Derby keeper Russell Hoult was sent off on the hour for a professional foul on Alan Rogers before Forest's Richard Gough was given his marching orders on 79 minutes for his second bookable offence.

However, in a match where referee Graham Barber booked four other players, Van Hooijdonk was allowed to stay on the pitch after the official somehow missed the Dutchman elbowing Vas Borbokis in the face on 10 minutes.

It was therefore ironic that it was the striker who then led the appeals for Hoult to be sent off after he upended Rogers.

Barber decided to show the Derby goalkeeper the red card even though his opponent was heading for the corner flag and away from the danger area.

The referee later dismissed Forest captain Gough, the Scot penalised for two fouls on Derby's Costa Rican striker Paulo Wanchope.

In these days of video evidence, Van Hooijdonk will be very fortunate not to receive some sort of punishment for his assault on Borbokis.

The former Sheffield United star was groggy as he was helped to his feet before being stretchered off, and was believed to be heavily

concussed at the very least.

Former Forest manager Dave Bassett disputed Van Hooijdonk's sending-off at Leicester in December, when the striker received his marching orders for a late challenge on Steve Walsh which appeared more clumsy than callous. It will be difficult to argue the Dutchman's case this time around.

Even before today, Forest had little chance of staying up, but this result leaves them within touching distance of an immediate return to Division One.

Carbonari's goal was one of the very few highlights in a robust encounter between the two east Midlands rivals which rarely rose above the mediocre.

Crossley made two flying saves to deny Dean Sturridge, while the striker also sent a 22-yard drive skimming just wide.

For Forest, Harewood was denied by Carbonari and Hoult also saved from Thierry Bonalair before he was sent off.

An unmarked Van Hooijdonk headed wide from eight yards out after Derby were reduced to 10 men and in the dying stages Steve Chettle's effort flashed off target.

However, Carbonari's goal was enough to give Derby the win their fans so desperately craved to nudge Forest nearer to the relegation trapdoor.



Powell of Derby (l) is sent flying by Nottingham Forest's Edwards, as both players challenge for the ball.

M'BRIDGE V CHARLTON

Middlesbrough defeated Charlton Athletic 2-0 at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday, severely denting the survival hopes of the London club.

Charlton started well as John Barnes and Mark Kinsella held sway in central midfield with Paul Gascoigne, Andy Townsend and Robbie Mustoe struggling to exert control.

Martin Pringle caused problems for the Boro defence as he put Gary Pallister through a stern examination on his 500th league appearance, but the striker was unable to find the killer touch as Barnes in particular supplied him with some good possession.

Charlton's marking proved a source of constant frustration in the early stages, Boro's ball carriers finding their team-mates closely watched as they tried to build up from the back.

Indeed, it took Robson's side fully 24 minutes to carve out a meaningful opportunity, Robbie Stockdale finding Townsend on the edge of the box, although his shot was well-saved by Andy Petterson.

Charlton might have taken the lead on 33 minutes when Pringle took advantage of Pallister's slip to race in on goal, but his angled shot was weak and never looked like troubling Mark Schwarzer in the Boro goal.

That miss proved costly and within a minute, Brian Deane, who had earlier needed several minutes of treatment after a clash with Petterson, played the ball in to striking partner Ricard.

The Colombian's initial effort was blocked by

defender Richard Rufus, but the ball sat up and he volleyed home from close range.

Boro could have doubled their lead eight minutes before half-time when Ricard headed the ball on to Deane, whose header ran just wide of Petterson's right post.

Charlton came out with all guns blazing after the interval, but it was Boro who almost increased their lead after 50 minutes as Ricard caught Barnes in possession just outside his own penalty area.

Danny Mills came across to make life difficult for the Colombian, but the ball broke for wing-back Dean Gordon, who forced Petterson to dive full-length to turn his shot around the post.

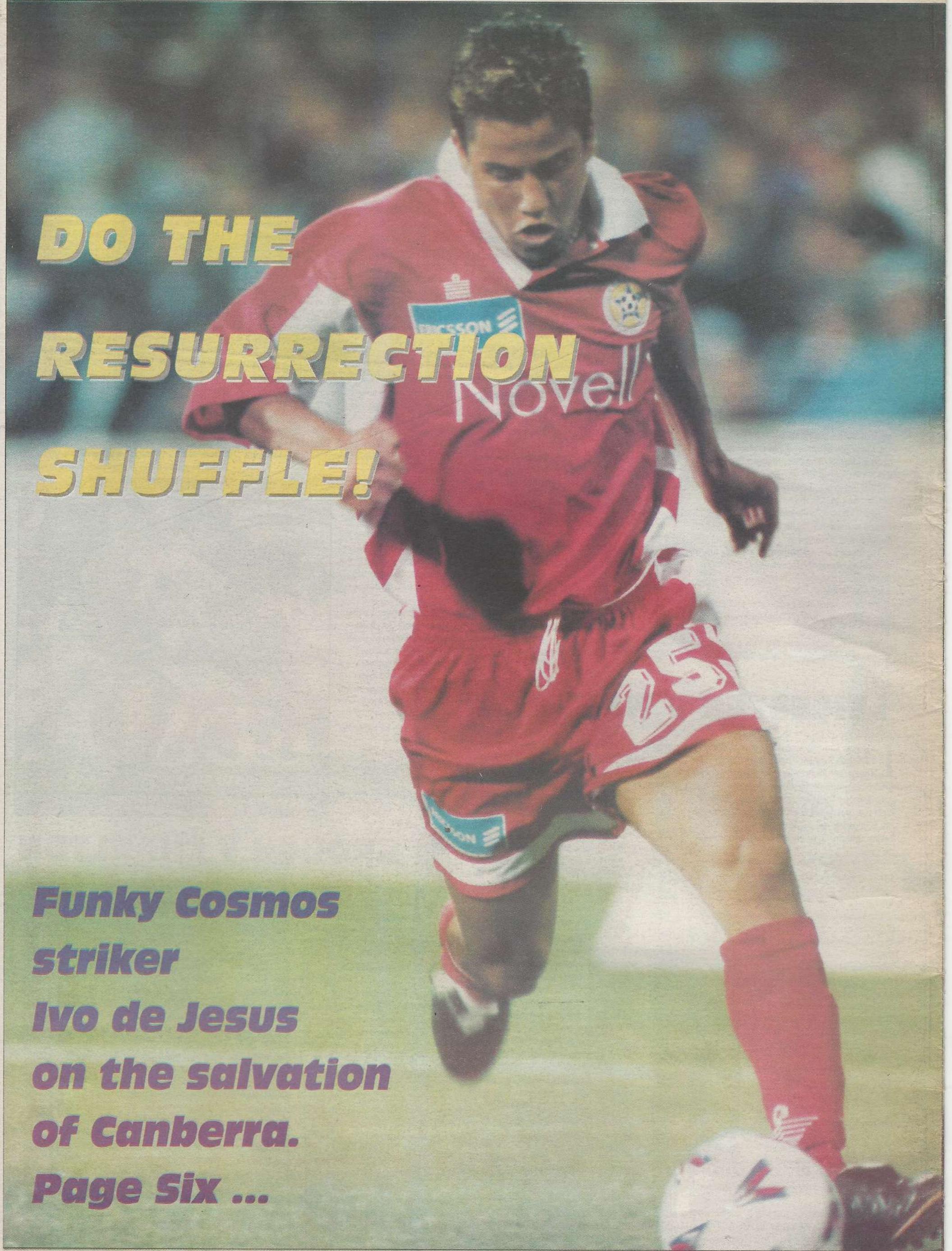
Gascoigne went within inches of a spectacular second as he curled a 25-yard free-kick just wide after Rufus had brought down Deane.

Petterson then denied Deane with his legs after good work by Ricard on the hour.

The second goal eventually arrived a minute later as Mustoe linked with Ricard before sending a delicate chip over the stranded Petterson, effectively ending any hope of a Charlton recovery.

The Londoners kept battling however, and Schwarzer had to produce a fine save to keep out a Mills header from a 68th-minute corner.

Carl Tiler kept the score respectable with a brave block to deny Townsend 11 minutes from time after substitute Keith O'Neill broke down the left.



**DO THE
RESURRECTION
SHUFFLE!**

**Funky Cosmos
striker
Ivo de Jesus
on the salvation
of Canberra.
Page Six ...**